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Why do we hate our children?

Spanking: the English vice

G2 with Europe's weather



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25 years of the silicon chip

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A short and brutal life

Rikki Neave: a boy abandoned

Christopher Elliott and John Mullin

HE WAS born on March 4, 1988, the son of a 19-year-old Ruth Greig and Trevor Harvey. He was to have three sisters, and little enough time to get to know them.

It was a nasty, brutal and short life. His naked body was discovered on November 28, 1994 in woodland close to his Peterborough home, limbs spread akimbo, outstretched like the figure in Leonardo da Vinci's drawing, Vitruvian man. He had been strangled with his anorak.

Rikki never stood a chance. Streetwise, an accomplished shoplifter, he had to help himself to food or go hungry; a boy failed by virtually everybody.

His father left when he was a toddler, and his mother married Dean Neave in November 1991. He was in prison, and she was besotted. He hated his stepson. It was mutual.

A month later, police were called by neighbours to the family's home in March, Cambridgeshire. Inspector Layton Mills found Rikki shut outside. "He was screaming on the doorstep, wearing nothing on his feet," Inspector Mills tried to question Ruth Neave. "As I grabbed her, she grabbed hold of Rikki with her left arm around his neck and tightened the grip."

This was her bear hug. She tried to discipline Rikki by making him face a wall. He would scream and hit the wall, or run away. So she would use her legs and arms to grip him. She hit him, kicked him, or grabbed his collar or throat and lifted him off the floor.

She was not charged over the Christmas 1991 incident until her son's body was found.

Then there was the time his mother dangled Rikki by his ankles over a bridge with a 15 feet drop. A bystander said she was laughing.

She admitted cruelty and was sentenced to seven years at Northampton crown court yesterday after being cleared of Rikki's murder.

The family moved in June 1992 to the notorious Welland estate in Peterborough. The Peterborough East social work team had 56 children on its at risk register, most from the estate. One was Rikki Neave.

Amanda Eaton, a neighbour, recalled Mrs Neave's approach to her son: "I saw her put her hands around his throat and lift him up against the wall. She lifted him off his feet. I saw her throw him against the settee. He cut his mouth. She made out she didn't mean to do it, but it just happened so many times. I've seen him hurt and I have seen him screaming: 'I love you, I love you'. He was scared because he was going to get hit, and hit hard."

As Mrs Neave arrived at 209 Redmile Walk, drugs were taking a hold. She blamed her husband, who walked out for the last time the Sunday before Rikki died. It was their third wedding anniversary.

She was spending £40 of her weekly £90 income on amphetamines. She would inject them, often in front of her children. Two of Rikki's sisters were also abused.

Rikki was her drugs courier. He would be sent out after midnight to find the local drug dealer with a note asking for sherbet, his mother's euphemism for amphetamines.

The beatings continued. Once, she grabbed Rikki, forced open his mouth, and filled it with washing-up liquid. He spluttered to scream: "I love you, I love you."

One social worker saw Rikki in his pyjamas wandering around with the word 'Idiot' written on his head.

Mrs Neave spelled out her attitude to Rikki in a letter to her husband. She hated and despised him. "I have had enough of Rikki. I have been up all night with Rikki running around and trying to nick food from the cupboards. I have burnt him with a match. I have punched his little face in."

This was about the time she first approached social workers for help, in April 1993. She



Rikki Neave: his mother was cleared of murdering the six-year-old but jailed for seven years for cruelty yesterday

'I want him out. If anything happens to him, be it on your own head. Don't say I didn't warn you.'



Ruth Neave, right, to Donna Betts, family aide, in February 1994

THE SOCIAL SERVICES
Cambridgeshire social services suspended two social workers in connection with the case and ordered a full inquiry. Ted Unsworth, social services director, said: "I believe, with hindsight, we persisted for too long with a strategy in line with the principles of the Children Act 1989, which was designed to keep the family together."

THE GOVERNMENT
The Government ordered a social services hit squad into Cambridgeshire to shake up child protection procedures. A team of inspectors have been ordered to ensure that "serious weaknesses" are removed.

THE CHARITY
Lessons had not been learned from earlier child abuse inquiries, said the children's charity, the NSPCC. "Individual organisations seem to find it very difficult to take on board the lessons of the tragedies of the eighties," spokesman Phillip Noyes said.

THE JUDGE
Sentencing Ruth Neave to seven years in prison, Mr Justice Poplewell told her: "You are plainly an inadequate person and wholly unfit to be a mother. I have rarely come across a case of such persistent and systematic cruelty to young children."

THE RELATIVES
Trevor Harvey, Rikki's father who left the family home when his son was three, threatened to sue Cambridgeshire social services. "There are hundreds of incidents going back down the years," he said. Rikki's grandfather, Maurice Harvey, said the boy stayed with him and his wife about seven months before he died. "When social services came to us after his death they didn't even know he was staying with us."



Tax hint as Clarke ups interest rates

Larry Elliott, Richard Thomas and Michael White

THE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, yesterday pinned the Government's hopes of a fifth election win on a declared policy of prudent economic management when he surprised the City and Westminster with a quarter-point rise in interest rates — and tantalisated Tory MPs with hints of budget tax cuts.

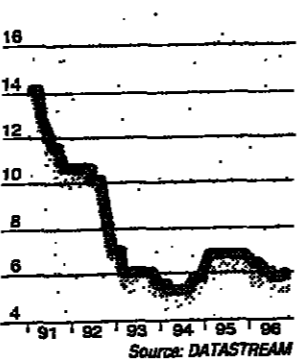
Gambling correctly that mortgage lenders would be reluctant to endanger the fledgling housing market recovery by raising the cost of home loans, the Chancellor said he was acting to "nip inflationary pressure in the bud" — and "stay ahead of the game" by taking early action.

Britain's two biggest mortgage lenders — the Halifax and the Abbey National — said they would not pass on the rise to their five million borrowers unless rates rose again.

Some City analysts saw the move as an attempt to buy off the financial markets ahead of a giveaway budget on November 26, with higher interest rates offsetting the inflationary consequences of pre-election tax cuts. Anxious Tory MPs agreed.

As Mr Clarke clashed in the shadow, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor told them his "intention is to lower taxation because we believe that is essential to the growth of the real economy. We have a government which is on course to reduce the level of spending and of taxation."

UK base rate, %



They were further encouraged when he repeated his commitment to a 20p basic tax rate and to eventual abolition of capital gains and inheritance taxes.

Adam Cole, UK economist at City brokers James Capel, said: "Higher base rates increase the risk that the tax giveaway in the Budget will be more generous than we previously thought — further skewing growth in the direction of consumer spending."

However, Mr Clarke strongly denied any link between yesterday's increase in base rates to 6 per cent — the first for almost two years — and his package of tax and spending measures in the Budget, which would be aimed at bringing government borrowing back under control — and nothing to do with meeting the Maastricht criteria for a single currency, he said later.

Leader comment, page 8; Industry fears Clarke rates rise ambush, City, page 11

Rwanda warns of war with Zaire after cross-border raid

Chris McGreal in Kigali

RWANDA'S army chief and vice-president, Major-General Paul Kagame, yesterday warned that all-out war with Zaire was increasingly likely after Rwandan troops raided eastern Zaire in retaliation for cross-border shelling.

In the first confirmed incursion into Zaire by the Rwandan army, soldiers hit government positions in the provincial capital of Bukavu, where ethnic Tutsi Banyamulenge rebels are believed close to seizing control.

Zaire accuses the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan army of supporting the rebels, who are fighting the Zairean army in eastern Zaire.

The city is in chaos and flooded with refugees. Ma-

headmistress, agrees with those who say Rikki was a problem child. He was difficult to handle. But his school likes to remember the good side too, and so there is a memorial clock to him at Welland County Primary. "We were fond of him too. He was a very lovable little boy."

raiding Zairean soldiers are looting whatever they can lay their hands on. Bodies litter the streets. The Red Cross is burying some of them to cut the risk of disease. The Roman Catholic archbishop of Bukavu is among the dead.

The Banyamulenge continued their advance to the south yesterday, while near the town of Goma — where the majority of Hutu refugees from the Rwandan civil war are camped — there were renewed attacks which threatened to provoke another exodus of people.

Rwandan troops raided Bukavu in retaliation for Zairean shelling across the border in which at least three people were injured. Reuters quoted turn to page 2, column 3

Tutsis fight to head off holocaust, page 7

Inside

News
The City's reaction to the Chancellor's hints of tax cuts and budget changes.

World News

The German government sought to bring off criticism of a deepening budget crisis and to mobilise support for a single currency.

Finance

City dealers hailed yesterday's interest rate rise as a gutsy move to nip inflationary pressure in the bud.

Sport

Former England prop Fran Cotton has called for leading clubs to be kicked out of the Rugby Football Union as a cash row boils over.

Comment and Letters

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ZAIRE

THE CHILDREN NEED YOUR HELP

In eastern Zaire, hundreds of thousands of refugees are fleeing for their lives. As always, the children are suffering most. Caught up in a conflict they barely understand, they desperately need food and water. If they are sick or injured, there will be no medical care during the journey. Many children will lose everything in the chaos. Even the people they love.

UNICEF is immunising children to prevent the spread of disease. Supplying food, clothing and water. And providing essential care for children who have lost their parents.

UNICEF relies entirely on voluntary contributions. The situation is critical. Just £25 would provide over 200 children with food for a month. Please send a gift to help the children of Central Africa today.

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Please post this coupon, along with your gift to: The Central African GU1
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 UNICEF can now even help by occasionally on any
 the standard. Items in need of support. If we would
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Sketch

Sycophancy thickly spread



Simon Hoggart

FIRST, a big apology. Yesterday I accused Andrew Rowe MP of asking the greatest question of the new season. I misheard his name: in fact it was formulated by the egregiously oleaginous William Powell. If it's any consolation to the blackguard Mr Rowe, a friend of mine expressed astonishment that such a free-thinking, independent kind of fellow would dream of asking such a toadying question. It may be that the whole atmosphere of the Queen's Speech debate encourages sycophancy. The very terms of the motion are enough to make the flesh crawl. "We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech..." At least that is time-hallowed ritual. The Ulster Unionist amendment has no such excuse. They (and I quote in full) "humbly regret that the references to Northern Ireland, an integral part of this, Your United Kingdom, continue to be placed in that section of Your Gracious Speech which is otherwise devoted to external affairs, to the scandal and offence of Your faithful Ulster people and the encouragement of the disturbers of Your Peace". This convulsion, complete with capital letters for the royal pronouns (elsewhere used only to refer to God or Jesus) suppurates grease. It is the grossest equivalent of butter substitute; it spreads straight from the fridge. The House managed to get off its knees long enough yesterday to debate the economy. Actually, the term "debate" is stretching things a bit. What Messrs Brown and Clarke do is hunt statistics and scorn at each other. They devote no more time to

the economy's real problems than they do to religious metaphors in the later Icelandic sagas, or advanced quantum theory. In the past this ritual has had a certain twisted attraction. It's been like a sitcom Christmas special starring both Alf Garnett and Victor Meldrew. Now it sounds tired and elderly and dull. "Down to 2 1/2 per cent" shouts Mr Brown. "Only 0.6 per cent up! Half a per cent lower than 12 months ago... Austria 3.5 per cent... Denmark 16 per cent ahead... 19th in the world prosperity league!" Mr Clarke replies in kind. "Seven and a half per cent higher than 12 months ago... a plus 18 per cent figure... 3 billion or 10 billion... and so on, seemingly forever. The ritual is closely observed. Each fresh figure must be greeted with mock hilarity by the other side. "Twenty-one point three compared to the figures of 17 years ago!" yells Mr Brown, or possibly Mr Clarke. At which Mr Clarke, or possibly Mr Brown, hugs himself in incredulous amusement that anyone should place the slightest trust in such obviously absurd statistics. Then there are the jokes, inserted like sixpences in a suet pudding, and just as likely to make your teeth hurt. The Chancellor had referred to the "Dolly Parton school of economics". Mr Brown talked about the Nigel Lawson Diet school ("blasted figures shrunk and shrivelled to a shadow of their vaunted glories"). Mr Clarke quoted Margaret Beckett on the recovery. "Fodder, short-lived and possibly jobless," she said. I couldn't think of a better description of her career as leader of the Labour Party. Later he declared that "the only people who are gloomy about the prospects for the economy are either mad, dead or sitting on the benches opposite". Fories broke out in fits of improbable glee, but the ritual demands that Labour people growl sourly ahead, refusing to be even faintly amused. Mr Brown rose. "Six hundred and fifty billion pounds!" he yelled. "What's the percentage of gross national product?" What did he mean? Does it matter? Does anybody care?

Review

Stumbling at the starting line

Lyn Gardner
The Loneliness of the Long Distance Runner
Nottingham Playhouse

LARGE though it is, the opportunities for cross-country running are extremely limited on the stage of the Nottingham Playhouse. But then local Nottingham lad, Colin, banged up in an Essex reformatory for petty thieving is going nowhere fast — except inside his head. A little like this production. Chasing the miles to the sound of his own pumping heart and regular breathing, Colin plots his revenge on the governor who wants him to run like "our lads, Chatway and Bannister" — bringing glory and the All England Blue Ribbon Borstal Cross Country Running Cup to his reformatory. The trouble is, Colin doesn't want to be one of "our lads", Colin knows he is one of "them", a working-class boy on the make who is out only for himself. "I'm the only man on earth, and I don't give a bogger about good or bad." Alan Sillitoe's "English realist" novella was written and set in the 1950s, but the cultural chasm between them and us is still as wide today as the difference between the governor's tweed suits and Colin's mum's mock ocelot coat ("the ocelot cost a lot"), brought with the small compensation awarded for her husband's death for industrially-related cancer. "If only them and us had the same ideas we'd get on like a house on fire, but they don't see eye to eye with us and we don't see eye to eye with them.

so that's how it stands and how it will always stand," predicts Colin. The current focus on family and moral values and the upbringing of children proves him right. Yet David Mark Thomson's under-energised production, with its snippets of 1950s popular music and cartoon-style interludes, is content to treat the story as a kind of quaint period piece in which working-class life is portrayed as cosy and comic, like a knock-about Laurel and Hardy sequence. It is less Julian Crouch's set, looking like a large public urinal with its grime-covered white enamelled tiles, to inject some gritty realism into an evening that plays too hard for laughs and ignores what Colin recognises: that there is a full-scale class war going on. "You don't need to sign up to be in a war. You're already in one — our war," Colin tells his kid brother Mike, who sees the army as the only way to escape Nottingham. But the real problem with this production is in translating from page to stage a novel that takes place largely inside its central character's head. Paul Brennan and Stephen Jameson's adaptation fails to escape the literary format, though it would probably make good radio. In a production dogged by the static, it is not just Colin who is left running on the spot. James Hooton is no Tom Courtenay (who made his name in Tony Richardson's film version of the story), and his flat delivery takes a bit of getting used to. But he leaves you in no doubt that behind the rarely animated features there is a mind as cunning as a fox's.

Hunting review is launched

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

AREVIEW of hunting with hounds for deer, foxes, hares and mink was launched yesterday by Sir David Steel in advance of expected attempts to abolish the sport in the next year. Sir David, executive chairman of the Countryside Movement, said the debate was "characterised by emotion

and lack of knowledge," and the independent review was designed to give MPs the facts before a free vote in Parliament on the issue, which is expected after the general election. Sir David denied allegations from the League Against Cruel Sports that the review was an attempt by the hunting lobby to push its case. He said the last review of hunting, which was in 1981, came out in favour of hunting.



Diane Blood, allowing herself to hope after the move by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GOWIN

Widow's hope of dead husband's baby

Clare Dyer
Legal Correspondent

DIANE Blood, the widow battling to have her dead husband's baby, may be artificially inseminated abroad with his sperm after a move by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority. The authority is to reconsider its ban on the export of semen taken from Stephen Blood, aged 30, while he was in a coma last March after contracting meningitis. The decision, taken last Thursday but fixed to Mrs Blood's solicitors on Tuesday, was announced in the Commons yesterday by the junior health minister, John Horgan. Mrs Blood said: "It's not a

victory yet." Asked if she was allowing herself to hope, she replied: "I've got my hopes up so many times and had them dashed again, but yes, I am. I've been through hell in the past 18 months. To knock my feelings down again now would be even worse." The authority said it would reach a decision by the end of the year. Mrs Blood is pressing ahead with an appeal against a High Court ruling this month upholding the authority's ban on the use of her husband's sperm because he gave no written consent. The authority is bound by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, which bans the use of semen without the donor's written consent, except where a couple are treated together. But direc-

tions forbidding the export of semen without written consent where its use would be unlawful in Britain were made by the authority itself and can be changed at will. It emerged yesterday that the 21-member authority had no information on Mrs Blood's individual circumstances when it made its decision last May. Members were told only that a woman wanted to use her dead husband's semen extracted with his consent while he was in a coma to try to conceive. This time they will have her court affidavit setting out the special circumstances, the High Court judgment, and affidavits supporting her from fertility expert, Lord Winston, and Baroness Warnock, who chaired the inquiry

which led to the setting up of the authority. They will be briefed on arguments by Mrs Blood's QC, Lord Lester, but refusal to export the sperm breaches EC law on the right of access to treatment in member states. Mrs Blood said she was pleased the authority would now take into account her special circumstances. "The fact that we were trying for a family, that I believed I was pregnant, that my husband died believing I was pregnant, that we had a discussion before his death in which he said he would want his sperm used in the event of his death." Mr Horgan's announcement came during a Commons adjournment debate yesterday introduced by Mrs Blood's MP, Joe Ashton, Labour mem-

ber for Bassetlaw. Asked whether the Government would change the law, the minister said it was "free vote" territory, indicating any change would have to be made by a private member's bill. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act had been passed after substantial debate and was carefully drawn, he added. "It is therefore not an area in which either policy or legislation should, in my view, be tinkered with just on the spur of the moment." Earlier, Labour's health

spokeswoman, Tess Jowell called for the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, to intervene in the case. There was "stalemate" because ministers were standing back from the authority's work and the authority was saying it could only work to the letter of the law, she said. Mr Ashton said: "It is not fair or reasonable under any law, under any circumstances — moral, legal or otherwise — that this woman should be denied the right to have a child by her husband."

Dissenters dismiss moral code as 'string of empty platitudes'

Donald MacLeod
Education Correspondent

A MORAL code to counter the "no blame, no shame" society and put an end to the lie that anything goes, was launched yesterday by the Government's chief adviser on the school curriculum. Nicholas Tate said the statement of values drawn up by a forum of 150 religious representatives, teachers and business people, was designed to end the notion that there are no moral absolutes or that moral opinions are no different from tastes and preferences. "The forum is restating that some moral values are non-negotiable. Anything, by definition, does not go." His announcement prompted some churches and Conservative MPs to step up their campaign for a stronger statement of values incorporating marriage as the ideal for family life. The draft code says: "We value families as sources of love and support for all their members and as the basis of a society in which people care for others." An alternative drawn up by five Christian members of the forum — backed by Gillian Shepherd, the Education and Employment Secretary — will



Nicholas Tate, who launched the code, and Gillian Shepherd



accompany the main consultation document to schools. The dissenters say: "Children should be nurtured and developed within a stable, moral and loving home environment with preferably both mother and father present in a happy marriage relationship. Marriage and parenting successfully undertaken are very creative of good values in adults and children." Julian Brazier, Tory MP for Canterbury, condemned the report. "It's every bit as bad as we feared and Gillian Shepherd is absolutely right to express concern. It's a long string of empty platitudes with no firm commitment

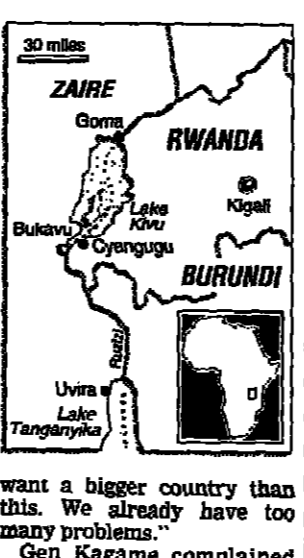
either to marriage or to Christianity. This is an attempt to produce politically correct platitudes which do nothing at all to promote the family or civic life." The statement of values covers four areas — society, relationships, the self and the environment, including strong backing for "green" policies. From September about 100 schools will pilot moral and social education programmes with a view to incorporating the code in the national curriculum. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teach-

ers, called the statement a "glorious irrelevance" for teachers battling to restore and maintain sensible discipline. Expecting teachers to reverse the trends set by society at large was unrealistic. Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said the moral code had prompted a phoney debate. "This has more to do with party politics than the real issue of defining acceptable behaviour." Mr Tate believes the public mood in the wake of Philip Lawrence's murder and the Dublin moral code rally support for his code. "Perish the thought that we should see schools as the main, or sole, means of moral education." The former Conservative prime minister, Sir Edward Heath, condemned the drift among the main parties towards claiming a link between their policies and specific religious beliefs, writes Michael White. Sir Edward told the Commons that combining politics and religion is "in my view mistaken... We should abolish this idea of proclaiming our policies are good because of a particular religious belief. That is the responsibility of archbishops and cardinals."

Rwanda warns of looming war with Zaire after border clash

continued from page 1
aid workers as saying that Rwandan commandos were still on the streets of Bukavu last night. Gen Kagame said there was "no question" that his army would retaliate further. "They are dragging me into the problem. If you slap me in the face, when I hit back I may not hit in the face — I may hit somewhere else." Asked if he thought war with Zaire was likely, he said: "It's going in that direction. But it's all coming from Zaire." The raid on Zaire is the first admitted to by Rwanda. Zaire has repeatedly accused Kigali of arming and organising the Banyamulenge. It also accuses Burundi's Tutsi military government of aiding them. Burundi yesterday

summoned Zaire's chargé d'affaires to protest at the allegations. Gen Kagame denied giving practical support, but conceded that some Banyamulenge Tutsis in his army had signed up with the rebels. But he made clear his whole-hearted backing for the Banyamulenge, who were the target for killings by Hutu militias and Zairean soldiers after the local authorities ordered Tutsis to leave the region or face extermination. "People who want to continue exterminating others have got to be resisted. I'm surprised in listening to some arguments that the issue now is (that) Rwanda is involved," he said. "People are being killed and they say we are extending an empire. We don't



that no attention was paid when Zairean Tutsis were murdered in their thousands by Hutu extremists and soldiers. And he criticised the European Union's aid commissioner, Emma Bonino, for focusing primarily on the fate of hundreds of thousands of Rwandan and Burundian Hutu refugees forced from their camps by the fighting. The root cause of the fighting should be addressed, he said. The Organisation of African Unity said yesterday it was sending a delegation to Zaire and Rwanda to try to defuse the crisis. The continuing conflict in eastern Zaire overshadows the resumption in Tanzania today of the slow-moving international genocide tribunal for Rwanda.

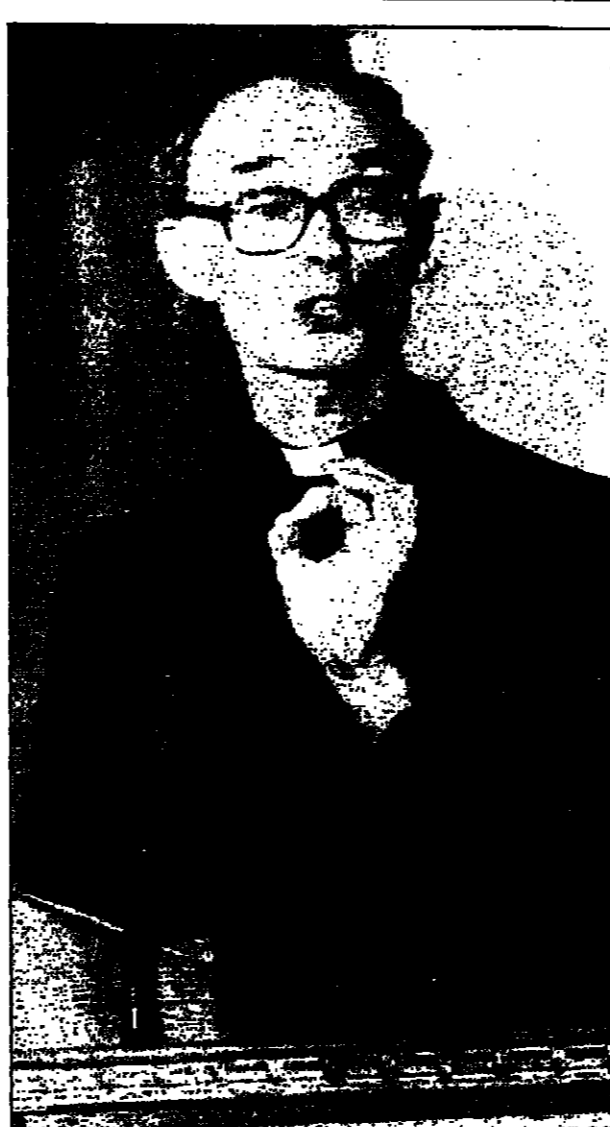
'I've been through hell this past 18 months. To knock my feelings down again now would be even worse'

Nothing on TV again? Polly Toynbee disagrees. She'd give up hot water and her washing machine rather than her TV. Read why in Radio Times. On sale now. RadioTimes IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

Preacher... And... John Ezard... assigned to... 'T... How the oth... Outline for pos... Thomas Milne... Editor... T... Nothing on TV again? Polly Toynbee disagrees. She'd give up hot water and her washing machine rather than her TV. Read why in Radio Times. On sale now. RadioTimes IT'S NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT.

Handwritten scribble at the bottom of the page.

Preacher of the Year competition



Poetry and passion from the pulpit... the Rev. Bernard Thomas, Father Bill Anderson, the eventual winner, and Dr Arnold Kellet in full flow at Southwark Cathedral yesterday

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARTIN ARGLES

And lo! the words were good, but lengthy

John Ezard hears five sermons designed to banish tedium

THE seats are very hard... a woman warned as we went into Southwark Cathedral. They were, and there was worse to come yesterday. After the usual prayers and singing, the preacher strode to the lectern and spoke for just over 10 minutes - a decently considerate time for a modern congregation. But then, after more prayers, another preacher went to the lectern and spoke for 10 minutes. And another. And another. And another.

The theme of his text was, appropriately, Christian humility. "I'm utterly astonished," said Father Anderson, a priest for 36 years. "I didn't feel it had gone well. I preached a better sermon in my bathroom this morning". His one-line recipe for a good sermon is "simplicity, sincerity and conviction". "I often try to weave a degree of poetry into my sermons and draw conclusions from it, particularly when students are around. "If a congregation knows you, they are always very kind, but if you preach from the heart and really mean what you are saying, you can only hope it helps someone". The preachment - or "preach-off" - drew 300 entries, with a final shortlist of

Winning message

Father Bill Anderson, 65, Preacher of the Year: "There are saints among and around us: the one who assumes the successful rival was the better candidate for a promotion post;

or who'll work with a will to the plans of others when they run contrary to his or her advice. Saints present and past illumine in great matters and small the penitential twilight."

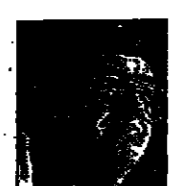
High points: erudite and sincere Low points: speaks too fast, pads with Bible and theology texts

language of science and industry, in the land of women". Even fierier was Bernard Thomas, a Welsh-speaking Anglican from Mid-Glamorgan who wanted to resurrect the Church Militant. "The psalmist did not mince his words when he called for a sword to inflict vengeance on the nations and punish the peoples. Neither must we," he declared. The other shortlisted entrant was Christopher Burkett, a vicar from Whitegate, Cheshire. His motto is: "Prepare as if all depends on you but preach as if all depends on God. He chose as his theme "If I had wings like a dove", a text only slightly less difficult than "Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man".

Father Anderson, however, scored by packing into his sermon 12 biblical and theological texts of a kind dear to his fellow-preachers. These are thought to have inched him ahead with two of the judges, the Bishop of Durham and the politician John Gummer, who is a lay preacher. The Bishop, Michael Turnbull, said Mr Anderson's offering "spoke to the human condition at a very significant, deep level. It contained thoughts which will stay with us". But all the sermons had been of superb quality, he said. By then the congregation was gathering hats and coats. It was tired, stiff, stirred and not too badly shaken. By contrast, next Sunday will seem a doddle.

How the others rated

The Rev Bernard Thomas, 50: "Ever since the first sword was forged from iron, it has been associated with battle, murder and sudden death. Christ was crucified in a wooden manger, grew up to fashion tables, chairs, fiddles, harps, died on a wooden cross. Surely, then, he blessed wood rather than iron." High points: Poetic, impassioned, intelligent. High points: Poetic, impassioned, intelligent. High points: Poetic, impassioned, intelligent. Low points: Too text, some lines emotionally obscure



The Rev Christopher Burkett, 44: "If the Lover retires too far, the light of love is extinguished and the Beloved dies; if the Lover approaches too near the Beloved, she is effaced by the love. The Lovers must leave a distance, a boundary for love. (From the philosopher Gillian Rose)." High points: Lyrical, dramatic, paradoxical, amusing. Low points: reads listlessly from a text



Anne Peat, 48: "It is a strange land outside our doors, a land of strange music, strange languages. How many of us knew what a bad hair day was before the recent furore? It's a land where pictures of eight babies' coffins are used to sell newspapers... but there is no place where you cannot sing the Lord's Song." High points: eloquent, ardent, direct Low points: speaks too fast



Dr Arnold Kellet, 70: "We have this growing sense of bewilderment at the collapse of traditional Christian morality - the unprecedented break-up of family life, the abuse of perhaps a million children a year, the pornography, the drugs. Why, even in cathedrals you have to watch your pockets." High points: Folksy, funny, focuses on popular concerns. Low points: Delivery over-emphatic, appears self-satisfied



Outline deal for post peace

Summary Outline Labour Editor THE outline of a deal to settle the six-month pay and working practices dispute in the Post Office has already been negotiated, it emerged yesterday after a crucial new mandate for further strikes. Communication Workers' Union members voted 64,919 to 4,001 for renewed industrial action - a 91 per cent turnout - rebuffing claims by politicians and the Post Office that delivery and sorting workers were dragged into this summer's walkouts by a politically motivated executive. Brian Johnson, CWU joint general secretary, immediately revealed that he and other union leaders restarted talks with Royal Mail last week with proposals he hoped would make the strike vote academic. Although neither side would disclose details, Mr Johnson said the union had suggested the central issue of flexible working be left to a joint working party chaired by an official of the conciliation service Acas. This is a variant of a formula negotiated by Mr Johnson in July and rejected by the CWU executive, which said the union had no objection in principle to team working. Mr Johnson said yesterday that had been unacceptable because it "seemed

French minister 'was KGB spy'

Charles HERNU, the Socialist defence minister from 1981 to 1985, was named as a cold war spy for eastern Europe, French intelligence officials confirmed yesterday. After documents were received from Romania in 1992, his name was also on a list of about 300 suspect French diplomats and officials given to France by British intelligence in 1993. HERNU was President Francois Mitterrand's closest confidant and largely responsible for his election to the Elysee in 1981. In the previous 10 years, he was the Socialist Party's defence spokesman. A colourful man who was married five times, he was sacked as a minister in 1985 because of his involvement in the sinking of the Greenpeace flagship Rainbow Warrior in Auckland harbour. Mitterrand sent him a letter saying: "In this hour of trial, I am, as always, your friend." Details of payments to HERNU from the Bulgarian, Romanian and Soviet governments between 1963 and 1963 were published in the weekly L'Express, using documents held by the internal counter-espionage service, the DST. Agents said a detailed inquiry had concluded the documents were genuine. L'Express's reporters said the eastern European agents who paid HERNU had given them details of his role, but no information was available

after 1963, when HERNU came under KGB control. Mitterrand was first told of his friend's betrayal in 1992 by the then DST chief, Jacques Fournet, who had been given documents by the Romanians. Some information was later supported by the British secret service. Mr Fournet told France 3 television yesterday he was unable to check the report and had passed it to Mitterrand. The president had decided to classify it as state secret, since HERNU had died in 1980 and could not defend himself. "DST was not able to verify what was in this report... We can regard this file as somewhat suspicious," Mr Fournet said. HERNU was recruited by the Bulgarian secret service in 1963, aged 29. Working under the code name Andre, he received the equivalent in today's money of about 5500-2600 for analyses of the French political situation. According to L'Express, a Soviet diplomat in Paris regularly paid him the equivalent of between 21,200-21,800 for the same services, and contributed more than 230,000 to his 1983 election campaign. After a break in the contact, HERNU was reactivated in 1982 by the Romanian secret service. He was returned to KGB control the following year. His son, Patrice HERNU, said the revelations were lies while Yves Bonnet, the DST head between 1982 and 1985, said HERNU's conduct had been irreproachable.

Argos IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE PRODUCT RECALL BED GUARDS SOLD PRIOR TO OCTOBER 1995 We are repeating the product recall message issued in October 1995. In the interests of safety, and to avoid any possibility of customer concern over entrapment hazards, parents who have purchased a bed guard from Argos prior to October 1995 should return it to their nearest store for a full refund. 3ft Bed Guard 5ft Bed Guard Argos has not sold bed guards since October 1995 and will not do so until a satisfactory British Standard for bed guards has been formally adopted.

Vertical text on the left edge of the page, including "I've been through hell this past 18 months To know my feelings down again now would be even worse" and "Radio Times NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT".



Ralph Upton, aged 74, with some of the 10,000 pumpkins he has grown at Shindon, West Sussex, for Halloween. He has been growing pumpkins for more than 30 years. PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BANNER

Ex-soldiers to sue army over bullying

David Fairhall
Defence Correspondent

THE ARMY has come under fire for failing to stamp out persistent bullying, which it admits should no longer be tolerated. Writs will be served on the Ministry of Defence today on behalf of eight former soldiers seeking compensation of at least £100,000 each after claims of beatings and sexual abuse. Most of the allegations centre on the Royal Welch Fusiliers training depot at Whittington barracks, Staffordshire. But the men's solicitor, Robert Peterson, of Newport, Gwent, said that as he investigated early cases, other ex-soldiers from different regiments came forward with similar complaints. Five other writs had been issued

and investigations were continuing. "Some of these men are having extreme difficulty following their disturbing experiences in the army," said Mr Peterson. "We have begun High Court proceedings in the hope that the Ministry of Defence will recognise they must be compensated for mental and physical scars." The allegations date back to the early 1990s. An officer and a corporal were disciplined at a court martial, but victims have never received any compensation. Bullying has always been part of army life, especially at recruit training depots. In recent years the authorities have tried to tackle the problem, along with racial abuse and sexual discrimination. Last year a former army officer, Alastair Green, was awarded £750 at the High

Court in London after alleging he was subjected to humiliations — including being strapped naked to a ceremonial cannon — which led to a mental breakdown. Statistics show a more hopeful picture. According to army sources, the military police dealt with 30 substantiated cases of "discrimination, bullying and intimidation" in 1997, but by last year the number had fallen to less than 20. In the introduction to army guidelines issued last January, General Sir Michael Rose, the former United Nations commander in Bosnia now responsible for personnel matters as adjutant general, said: "There can be no place for harassment, bullying and discrimination, which will affect morale and break down the trust and cohesiveness of the group."

Thatcher 'acted like schoolmarm' at EU

Michael White
Political Editor

A DANISH elder statesman yesterday launched an unprovoked attack on the legendary reputation of Margaret Thatcher as a less-than-amicable negotiator in the European Union. She behaved like a schoolmistress at European summits, according to Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, Denmark's former foreign minister. Euro-colleagues from Helmut Kohl downwards have reached similar conclusions, not least the late Francois Mitterrand of France. "Margaret the Terrible" did not like to be contradicted and could ruin the convivial atmosphere of the

twice yearly European Councils with her "wounding and sarcastic manner and obvious insensitivity", said Mr Ellemann-Jensen. At one Brussels summit her strident voice was heard saying: "What are you doing? You are not trying to weaken my formula, are you?" He and his colleagues "jumped to attention like schoolchildren saying we had done nothing." Lady Thatcher then "fixed us with a cold stare and said, 'Hmmm, I doubt it. I don't trust men. Men are weak,'" recalled Mr Ellemann-Jensen. Whether he ever realised that the best response to Lady Thatcher was to argue back was not clear. But it proved the key to survival in the Cabinet of such critics as James Prior and

Peter Walker, while a private row with one of her junior whips — John Major — in the mid-80s was the making of him. Chancellor Kohl's recent memoirs make plain his impatience with her hectoring. But, although horrified by Lady Thatcher's frequent references to "wanting my money back" during negotiations over EU rebates, the womanising President Mitterrand reached the famous judgment that she had "the eyes of Caligula and the mouth of Marilyn Monroe." "Patience is not one of my obvious virtues," she announced in 1979, only six months after she had come to power. And, as a school friend in Grantham once put it, she had "an irritating sense of her own superiority".

News in brief

Party leaders back two-minute silence

JOHN Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown have joined forces to back the call for a nationwide two-minute silence at 11am on Armistice Day, November 11, when large sections of Britain will come to a halt to pay tribute to the sacrifice of the nation's war dead and injured. Schools, colleges, shops, businesses and the broadcast media are among thousands of organisations that will stop. Mr Major said he strongly supported the idea that the country should pause to remember for two minutes that morning. He would observe the silence, probably in his Downing Street office. "On Remembrance Sunday every year, the nation rightly gathers in remembrance at the Cenotaph, at war memorials throughout the UK and abroad and indeed more privately," Mr Major said. Mr Blair said: "We owe a great debt to our fellow countrymen and women who gave their lives in two world wars so that succeeding generations could live in freedom."

British student jailed in US

A BRITISH exchange student has been jailed in the US for one year for "betraying US hospitality" by defrauding two banks and a computer company of \$139,000 (about £87,000). Neil Mistry, aged 25, of Middlesex, was sentenced after pleading guilty before a judge who said he found Mistry's betrayal of US hospitality "utterly reprehensible". Mistry was a computer engineering student at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Massachusetts, for a year. The indictment said he devised and implemented a scheme to defraud Fleet and Shawmut banks and EMC2, where he worked briefly. He was ordered to pay full restitution before he is released and deported.

Man killed during prank

A FATHER of two was killed while placing penny coins on the railway track to flatten them, an inquest in Northumberland was told yesterday. Bruce Darling, aged 25, was hit full on by an InterCity train travelling at 110mph during the prank at Cramlington station in Northumberland. He had been drinking with friends in a shelter on the platform. He leaves a widow and two children aged six and four. A spokesman for British Transport Police said: "I thought this game of placing pennies on the line had died out but it still crops up occasionally. It is anything but a harmless prank as this death proves." A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

'Lost' painting to be sold

A PAINTING "lost" for 80 years is to be sold at auction at Sotheby's on Wednesday. It is expected to fetch up to £180,000. The work by the Victorian artist Frederic Lord Leighton, was rediscovered in East Anglia during a routine probate valuation of an estate. The picture, entitled Cleobulus Instructing his Daughter Cleobulne, is the missing one of three paintings which Leighton exhibited at the 1871 Royal Academy summer exhibition.

£2m prize unclaimed

THE countdown has begun for the largest unclaimed lottery prize to be picked up by its rightful winner. Just 21 days remain for the owner of a ticket bought in Hull on May 25 to claim the jackpot prize of £2,054,764. If he does not come forward by 11pm on November 21, the cash, and interest, will be handed over to the five good causes. The winning numbers for that draw were 8, 26, 42, 20, 34, 43 with a 25 bonus ball. So far £58,561,197 has been handed over to the good causes in unclaimed prize money.

Fewer cot deaths

COT deaths fell last year to a new low of 0.6 per thousand live births, compared with 0.7 in 1994. There were 388 such deaths in England and Wales, according to provisional official figures. The rate has fallen from 2.3 a thousand in 1988. — David Brindle

Official visit reflects campaign to end embargo Buenos Aires makes new diplomatic push

David Fairhall, Defence Correspondent

THE first official visit to Britain since the Falklands war by a member of Argentina's military high command begins this weekend as part of a diplomatic campaign which Buenos Aires hopes will lead to the lifting of the 14-year British arms embargo. The visit by Lieutenant General Martin Antonio Saiza, chief of the Argentine army's general staff, comes only days after the disclosure that Whitehall has already secretly "reassessed" the embargo to allow Rolls Royce to supply spare parts for the Argentine navy's warships. The general is not coming formally to negotiate further relaxation of the ban. But in meetings with MPs, including

the Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, he will argue that relations have so improved that an embargo no longer makes sense. Reports that Argentina's readiness to co-operate in the joint development of the Falklands offshore oil was linked to renewed arms sales have been strenuously denied by London and Buenos Aires. Argentinian diplomatic sources insist that each aspect of the improving relations between the two countries — financial investment, oil exploration, fisheries development and military "confidence building" — is being treated separately. The fact remains that lifting what remains of the embargo, allowing the Argentine navy in particular to re-establish traditional pre-war links with its British counterpart, General Sir Charles Guthrie, is the next major Argentinian

objective. In spite of the ban, Argentina's Rolls Royce-powered destroyers are evidently getting enough spares. Besides, there is little money in the defence budget for new equipment. General Malza was an artillery commander during the Falklands campaign and spent some time as a prisoner of the British forces. His official visit is the latest step in a programme of "normalisation" between the two countries' armed forces that began in 1990. It has included joint United Nations peacekeeping operations in Cyprus and a visit to Buenos Aires last year by the Antarctic survey ship HMS Endeavour. The Argentine chief of staff will spend three days in the UK, and will meet his British counterpart, General Sir Charles Guthrie.



Nat and Georgia Simpson in Brookside: the Broadcasting Standards Council rebuked Channel 4 for glamorising incest

Rebuke for Brookside incest

Andrew Cuff
Media Correspondent

CHANNEL 4 received a fresh rebuke yesterday from a television watchdog for glamorising incest in Brookside. The Broadcasting Standards Council said incest was a subject that had to be treated with care and sensitivity and the programme had failed to do this. Last week the Independent Television Commission ordered Channel 4 to broadcast an apology for showing brother and sister Nat and Georgia Simpson cuddling in bed in Brookside's Saturday teatime omnibus. The council, chaired by Lady Howe, went further, de-

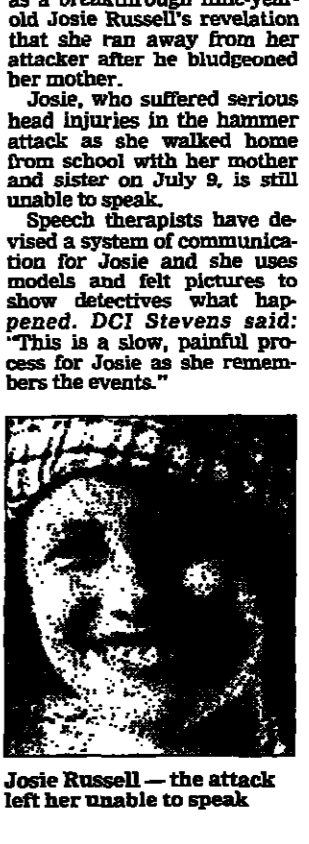
scribing both the 8pm weekday and 9pm omnibus slots as "inappropriate". The council acknowledged the role soaps could play in bringing difficult social issues, but its members had been troubled by "the absence of any insight into the motivation of the characters to behave as they did". It also criticised the use of attractive role models, actors John Sandford and Helen Grace. Forty viewers had complained about a kiss and bedroom scenes between the couple. Some said it was wrong to include a storyline which might encourage imitation before the 9pm adult viewing watershed. Brookside producer Mal

Young defended the storyline, saying it dealt with "the last taboo". Channel 4, in a statement to the council, said the series had a valuable role in bringing "untouchable" subjects to wider audiences. Stories on drugs and date rape — and the incest story — had received a positive response from viewers and agencies working in these sensitive areas. "Everything about their liaison, including the lead-up to it, was portrayed as angsty, inducing, furtive and wrong," Channel 4 said. The tragic consequences of the relationship would continue to be explored. BBC1's Airport was criticised by the council for voyeuristic treatment of an el-

'Handful' of dual killing suspects left

THE DETECTIVE leading the hunt for the killer of Lin Russell and her six-year-old daughter Megan said yesterday that he believed only a handful of suspects had already interviewed the murderer. Detective Chief Inspector Dave Stevens said they were narrowing down the list of suspects and were looking at a "handful" of local people who had been questioned about the killings. DCI Stevens said: "I believe we have probably already spoken to the person responsible. But we do have over 5,000 people on our database, whom we have questioned, and it is a matter of narrowing those down." Mr Stevens said there was a possibility the killer could be a paedophile or someone suffering from psychosis. "This is a man who does not want to be caught. There was a degree of planning to the murders and he has gone to some lengths to hide his identity." Detectives leading the inquiry into the murders hailed as a breakthrough nine-year-old Josie Russell's revelation that she ran away from her attacker after he bludgeoned her mother. Josie, who suffered serious head injuries in the hammer attack as she walked home from school with her mother and sister on July 9, is still unable to speak. Speech therapists have devised a system of communication for Josie and she uses models and felt pictures to show detectives what happened. DCI Stevens said: "This is a slow, painful process for Josie as she remembers the events."

Speech therapists have devised a system of communication for Josie and she uses models and felt pictures to show detectives what happened. DCI Stevens said: "This is a slow, painful process for Josie as she remembers the events."



Josie Russell — the attack left her unable to speak

GPs spurn Labour plan to abolish fundholding

Smith under pressure as only 1 in 5 backs change

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

BARELY one in five fundholding family doctors thinks Labour's plans to replace the system are acceptable, a survey of more than 1,300 general practices indicated yesterday. The findings increase pressure on Chris Smith, Labour's shadow health secretary, to water down the party's plans to abolish fundholding. He is due today to address the annual conference of fundholding doctors in Harrogate. The survey results follow a call by the Institute for Public Policy Research, the influential left-of-centre think tank, for Labour to put on hold its

threat to scrap fundholding and to ensure successful fundholders are "left alone". Labour aims to replace fundholding, by which some GPs buy hospital and community health care for their patients, with a system of local commissioning involving all GPs and other health professionals in decisions on the way NHS cash is spent. The survey, the biggest of its kind, was carried out by the National Association of Fundholding Practices among 1,325 of its member practices. Asked if they saw locality commissioning as a satisfactory alternative to fundholding, 22 per cent said yes and 71 per cent said no. Asked if they would accept pressure from their locality or health authority to be more economical

to keep within a common budget, 22 per cent said yes and 68 per cent no. Asked if they would prefer a practice-based budget, making their own decisions on how to stay within it, 69 per cent said yes and 16 per cent no. The survey also found that 87 per cent of the fundholders had bought in new services for their patients, such as counselling, physiotherapy and chiropody. Forty-two per cent were running consultant out-patient clinics at the way NHS cash is spent. Dr Rhidian Morris, NAFP chairman, said the findings were an emphatic endorsement of fundholding. "We want a simple answer from Chris Smith: will fundholding stay or will it go under a Labour government?" A spokeswoman for Mr Smith said he did not intend to make any definitive announcements at the NAFP conference.

Politicians of all hues welcome bill on corruption

Italian bribe saga draws to a close

John Hooper in Rome

ITALY'S centre-left government let it be known yesterday that it intended bringing down the curtain on the melodrama known as Tangentopoli (Bribesville).

Giovanni Maria Flick, the justice minister, said he would be tabling a bill before the end of the year to enable all those accused of corruption to escape prison. His proposal was warmly welcomed by politicians of the left and right.

Romano Prodi, the prime minister, said: "We believe that Tangentopoli ought to be got away from." But, in a television interview last night, he questioned whether the parliamentary timetable would allow the bill to be debated as speedily as Mr Flick wanted.

It is just over three-and-a-half years since prosecutors in Milan began exposing the system of bribes that drives Italian party politics. As a result, the country's longest-serving post-war prime minister, the Socialist Bettino Craxi, has fled into exile in Tunisia and the careers of hundreds of other politicians have been destroyed.

But, in several important respects, the effects of Tangentopoli have been negligible. Only one man convicted of corruption has been sent to jail after rather than before his trial. Little has been done to dismantle the network of patronage that underpins the graft. And, above all, there has been no reform of party funding, whose inadequacies originally inspired it.

A report on corruption prepared for the leader of the lower house of parliament and leaked yesterday said: "The scandals and trials merely made the kickbacks riskier and thus more conspicuous. The corruption more sophisticated and the struggle against corruption more difficult."

This view has been used by some on the centre-left as a reason for ending the crusade against corruption in the courts. Critics of the government have insinuated that it has other motives.

The dominant party in the ruling Olive Tree coalition is the ex-communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), whose funding methods were under investigation by prosecutors before last April's general election. In recent weeks, moreover, the PDS has been trying to reach an understanding on institutional reform with the opposition, whose leader, Silvio Berlusconi, is on trial for corruption.

In an interview with the newspaper La Repubblica, Mr Flick, made no secret of the fact that his plans for a "political solution" to Tangentopoli paralleled the former communists' attempts to woo the right. "I am trying to do the same in the field of justice," he said.

Mr Flick who, as a lawyer, acted for the defence in a number of corruption cases, said he favoured "broader plea bargaining". But he added that those convicted would be banned from holding public office and made to repay what they had stolen. His pledges were scoffed at by a leader of the hardline Communist Refoundation. "It is very well-known that it is impossible to put into practice the repayment of illicit gains and the ban on office-holding," said Tullio Giamaldi.

But Pietro Folena, the PDS justice spokesman, said Mr Flick's solution was "excellent". Such moderate and balanced policies were "what had allowed the Olive Tree to win the election", he added.

Mr Berlusconi's followers, who were vilified by the centre-left for trying to muzzle the anti-corruption prosecutors, reacted with delight and wry irony. The former junior justice minister, Domenico Costantabile, noted the similarities with a proposal he made two years ago.

ing and that public resentment of monetary union could grow.

Earlier this year Mr Kohl pledged to halve the record unemployment of about 4 million by the end of the century. Last week, he conceded this was not possible, and the thinktanks forecast increased unemployment next year.

To try to meet the single currency terms, the government has just reversed a promised tax cut, and more spending cuts are in the offing to plug the hole in next year's budget. Mr Waigel estimates the shortfall at DM4 billion (£1.7 billion), but the thinktanks put the figure at DM15 billion.

Seemingly unfazed, Peter Hintze, the CDU general secretary, launched the campaign to persuade Germans of the merits of the single currency. "Germany will fulfil the criteria. The European train will leave on schedule... The euro will be as hard and as strong as the mark."

Mr Waigel insisted next year's public sector borrowing requirement would not exceed the projected DM56.5 billion which would bring the budget deficit under the 3 per cent ceiling required for the single currency.

Kohl fights to keep sceptic Germans on the euro train

Ian Traynor in Bonn

THE German government sought yesterday to shrug off criticism from economic experts, the opposition and its own supporters in the media over a deepening budget crisis, and tried to mobilise support for the single European currency.

Responding to criticism of his fiscal policies by Germany's six leading economic thinktanks, the embattled finance minister, Theo Waigel, told an emergency session of parliament that Germany would meet the terms for a single currency next year.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats (CDU) launched a propaganda campaign for the single currency, pledging that the criteria would be met next year and the euro launched on schedule in 1999. The party dismissed the thinktanks' prediction that in 1997 Germany would fail the single currency test on the budget deficit and state debt levels.

Yesterday's emergency budget debate followed two weeks of mounting disarray in the coalition cabinet over tax increases and gaping holes in the budgetary projections.

The pro-government conservative newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine delivered a damning indictment of Mr Waigel, saying Germany faced "an economic and social crisis".

The newspaper's verdict was less than generous to Mr Kohl, who today becomes Germany's longest-serving post-war chancellor. "The economy in western Germany is staggering under the burden of dealing with the east. The east is turning into the most expensive disaster of the post-war era. Germany remains a high-tax country with mass unemployment and without the justification to enter monetary union."

Joschka Fischer, the leader of the Greens, rubbed salt into Mr Waigel's wounds, accusing him of inactivity, and of stumbling from one budget gap to the next. Mr Waigel tried to blame the opposition, which blocked some proposed spending cuts in the upper house. But the general perception is that the buck stops with Mr Kohl.

On Tuesday, a joint report by the six economic thinktanks said there was neither rhyme nor reason to Mr Waigel's policy, that the government's credibility was suffer-



Tight race in Romanian presidential poll

ROMANIA'S former prime minister, Petre Roman, above, waves to supporters in Bucharest yesterday at the end of his electoral campaign to oust President Ion Iliescu in Sunday's poll. He made an impassioned plea to vote against Mr

Iliescu, in the square where both men led the 1989 anti-communist revolt. Opinion polls put Mr Roman, the country's first post-communist prime minister, in third place in the increasingly tight presidential race, behind Mr Iliescu, a former communist, and

Emil Constantinescu, an academic. Mr Roman told thousands of supporters that Revolution Square, where Nicolae Ceausescu last appeared before his capture and execution, was a sacred place for him. — Reuters.

PHOTOGRAPH: RADU SIGHETI

World news in brief

'Cover up' of Gulf war nerve gas exposure

THE CIA and the Pentagon repeatedly attempted to cover up investigation revealing overwhelming evidence that tens of thousands of United States troops were exposed to Iraqi chemical weapons during the Gulf war, two former CIA analysts have claimed.

The accusation comes a day before the Pentagon sends out letters to 20,000 Gulf war veterans, informing them that they may have come into contact with chemical agents after the bombing of an Iraqi ammunition dump during the war.

The analysts, a husband and wife team, say they disclosed about 60 incidents where US troops may have come into contact with nerve gas and other chemical weapons. Attempts to pursue their unauthorised inquiry were obstructed by senior Pentagon figures, and top CIA officials including the agency's director, John Deutch, voiced concern about their findings, the couple told the New York Times. The CIA denied accusations of a cover-up. — Gary Younge, Washington.

Apartheid killer jailed for life

EUGENES de Kock, the South African state assassin known to his colleagues as Prime Evil, was jailed for life yesterday by a judge who called his crimes "chilling and calculated". In the 1980s and early 1990s De Kock, a colonial in the security police, tortured and murdered those he considered enemies of the apartheid state.

Sitting in Pretoria, Supreme Court Justice Willem van der Merwe handed down 212 years and two life sentences to the notorious, bespectacled man slumped in the dock. In August De Kock was convicted of six murders, two charges of conspiracy to commit murder and 81 lesser offences ranging from fraud to illegal possession of arms and ammunition.

One of the life sentences was for the murder of an African National Congress activist's brother, Zwellibazi Nyanda. De Kock, who received a medal for the incident, shot and killed Nyanda when he ran from a house that De Kock's hit squad had just attacked.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission, headed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu, indicated that it may be prepared to reduce the sentence if De Kock names his bosses. However, Archbishop Tutu said, amnesty was not an option for some of De Kock's crimes. — Ruairidh Nicol, Pretoria.

Drug baron fined £67m

GILBERTO Rodriguez Orejuela, the jailed kingpin of Colombia's Cali drug cartel, has agreed to pay a \$67 million fine — the biggest ever in Colombia — in a plea-bargain deal that could lead to his early release, judicial officials said.

Rodriguez, a reputed billionaire, agreed to pay the fine on confessing to the drug-related charge of illicit enrichment in day-long testimony to a "faceless" or anonymous judge. A spokesman for the chief prosecutor, Alfonso Valdivieso, said Rodriguez had also confessed to 19 counts of fraud stemming from his use of bank accounts to handle the illicit proceeds of his drug empire.

He confessed to using some of those accounts to finance electoral campaigns in Colombia. The Cali cartel has been accused of providing about \$4 million in contributions to the 1994 campaign of President Ernesto Samper. Earlier this year, the Colombian congress cleared Mr Samper of any wrongdoing in relation to his campaign finances. In a trial dismissed by many critics as a whitewash. — Reuters, Bogota.

Rao charged with vote-buying

INDIAN federal police indicted the former prime minister, P. V. Narasimha Rao, yesterday in a vote-buying case, hours after he made an unprecedented appearance in a heavily guarded makeshift trial court on criminal forgery charges.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said it had charged Mr Rao with conspiring to pay legislators from a regional party \$25,000 to vote against a no-confidence motion in 1993, which his Congress party narrowly survived. Charges were also filed against two other Congress party members under the Prevention of Corruption Act, as well as against four members of the regional Jharkhand Mukti Morcha party alleged to have received bribes.

The bribery charge, which Mr Rao denies, carries a maximum penalty of five years in jail. A hearing has been set for tomorrow. Mr Rao resigned as prime minister in May after his Congress party, hobbled by corruption charges, suffered its worst defeat in general elections. He resigned the party leadership in disgrace in September. — Reuters, New Delhi.

Oslo bikers' gang bombed

A POWERFUL car bomb exploded yesterday outside the headquarters of a Norwegian motorcycle gang, causing extensive damage but no injuries, in the latest round of a feud between rival Nordic biker gangs.

Police said the bomb exploded shortly after midnight beneath a stolen car parked outside the Oslo headquarters of MC Norway, a bikers' group whose members aspire to join the international Hell's Angels. Police said they were looking for two men believed to be members of the rival Bandidos gang. — Reuters, Oslo.

Zimbabwe strikers face sack

THE Zimbabwean government yesterday ordered thousands of doctors and nurses to end their 10-day pay strike, threatening to sack those who defied its command and to replace them with expatriates. The strikers, through their unions, said they would not heed the call, but were prepared to talk to the government.

An estimated 12,000 nurses and junior doctors have been on strike since October 21, paralysing state hospitals. They are demanding that President Robert Mugabe's government honour last month's pledge to consider their demands for a 60 per cent pay rise and better working conditions. — Reuters, Harare.

Welcome sight for sore eyes

DAILY "eyerobics" sessions have been introduced in many schools in Singapore. Every morning before assembly, children stand in neat rows in the playground rubbing and rolling their eyes to slow music.

Teachers say the exercises help improve blood, relax the eye muscles and reduce eye strain. Some say they can improve eyesight. — Reuters, Singapore.

Russia facing revenue crisis

David Hearst in Moscow

RUSSIA'S finance minister, Alexander Livshits, has issued an urgent warning to the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, that state finances for this month are about to collapse. Mr Livshits said that in the first two weeks of the month, Russia's tax and customs collectors raised 3,000 billion roubles (\$342 million), only 16 per cent of the sum forecast in the budget.

In his "urgent dispatch" leaked yesterday to a Russian newspaper, he wrote that if this trend continued, federal revenues would be half those budgeted.

Mr Livshits said that would leave the government unable to pay 85 per cent of the state workers' wage bill, the army budget and state benefits. The letter comes on top of a statement from the labour minister, Gennady Melikyan, that the level of unpaid wages owed by the public sector in general has more than doubled to 43,000 billion (\$4.9 billion) since February, when Boris Yeltsin promised to pay them back in a month.

When the International Monetary Fund said last week that it was delaying this month's \$340 million tranche of a \$10 billion loan because it was unhappy about the budget revenues, the administration attempted to bluff it out. Anatoly Chubais, chief of the presidential administration and vice-chairman of an emergency tax commission, said: "The situation will be dramatically changed. There will be no financial disaster."

Mr Chubais and President Yeltsin have vowed to use force to solve the problem, saying that pressure on taxpayers will come from law enforcement bodies.

The main cause of the collapse of tax revenues has been the inability of heavy industry to pay. Two-thirds of the 9,500 billion roubles the government did manage to raise in the first two weeks of this month was generated by government borrowing on the domestic market, foreign trade, or selling precious metals and hard currency abroad. Industry is in a state of collapse. Gross domestic product has decreased by 8 per cent this year. Investment fell by 10 percentage points between January and April, 20 from May to July, and 22 in August.

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We are being invited to admire Gingrich and Dole for having had the moral courage to leave their first wives for younger women.
Mark Lawson

G2 page 6

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The Guardian Thursday October 31 1996

China to lock dissidents

Author: Margaret MacKinnon

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China quick to lock away dissident

Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong

TAKEING less than four hours to judge evidence flimsy even by Chinese show trial standards, a Beijing court yesterday handed down an 11-year sentence against Wang Dan, a former Tiananmen Square student leader who has spent much of his adult life in custody or on the run.

Mr Wang, aged 27, was found guilty of plotting to "subvert the government", a charge based largely on selected and sometimes doctored quotations from articles he wrote for newspapers in Hong Kong and Taiwan after his release from jail in 1988.

He was detained again last year and held incommunicado for 17 months as authorities struggled to stitch together a case.

Among the allegedly subversive statements cited in the Beijing Intermediate People's Court was an assertion by Mr Wang that "freedom of speech under the constitution has become an empty phrase". The prosecution claimed this was false. A guilty verdict in political cases is a foregone conclusion.

Mr Wang's father, who criticised the trial as hasty and unreasonable, said: "Speech can't overthrow the government." He said his son would appeal. All such appeals fail.

The judgment sent shivers through Hong Kong, which reverts to Chinese rule in 2049 days under a Beijing-drafted constitution that bans "sub-

version". Governor Chris Patten said there would be "very considerable concern" about a sentence imposed on a young man for activities which in most places, including Hong Kong, would be entirely legal.

It will also disconcert President Bill Clinton, who has been eager to improve ties with China. The US secretary of state, Warren Christopher, is due in Beijing next month.

Mr Wang's closed trial extinguishes the last embers of China's tiny dissident movement, completing a cycle of repression that has seen a prominent literary critic, a Nobel prize nominee and a host of other outspoken Chinese jailed or exiled.

"This represents the nadir of China's judicial system in dealing with dissidents," said Robin Munro of Human Rights Watch. "There is no discernible legal ground for these proceedings. The only reason for this trial is that Wang Dan annoys the government and they are determined to silence him."

Human Rights Watch said authorities had committed procedural violations in the case. Mr Wang was held for 17 months without access to his family or a lawyer before being charged. Chinese law allows only 10 days.

The state-run media hailed the trial as open and fair. "Wang candidly confessed his activities," according to the Xinhua news agency.

Foreign journalists were barred from the courtroom. Police clamped a security cordon around the building and confiscated the film of at least two foreign camera crews.

The past year's crackdown coincides with a drive by the president and Communist Party secretary, Jiang Zemin, to entrench his authority amid political uncertainty attending the long dotage of Deng Xiaoping, now aged 92.

Jail sentences for dissent in recent months have often exceeded those after the crushing of the 1989 Tiananmen Square student movement.

Mr Wang was jailed for four years for his involvement in the 1988 protests and released on parole a few months before completing the sentence. He had initiated "democracy sessions" at Beijing University, and became one of the movement's three principal leaders, along with Chai Ling and Wuertkaxi, both of whom fled to the US.

Tutsis fight to head off holocaust



Agathe Dukunda feeds her 11-month-old daughter milk at a camp for Rwandan refugees in Mugunga, Zaire, yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: JEAN-MARC BOUQU

AS THE Banyamulenge began descending from the hills to rout the Zairean army, Major-General Paul Kagame, Rwanda's vice-president and the real power in the land — was in Israel.

Gen Kagame's visit was partly a shopping trip for weapons, in a country where he was sure of a sympathetic ear. Increasingly, Rwanda's Tutsis draw parallels between their struggle for survival and that of Israel.

Gen Kagame attended the dedication of a memorial to the Tutsi victims of genocide at the shrine to the Jewish Holocaust — a rare recognition by Israel of another people's suffering. He heard from the hardline Israeli gov-

ernment about persecuted minorities' right of self-defence. By the time Gen Kagame returned home, others, too, were making comparisons.

The Banyamulenge are Zairean Tutsis threatened with expulsion or slaughter by their government, neighbours and Hutu extremists. They have increasingly appeared as a proxy army intent on carving out a buffer zone in Zaire on the border with Rwanda — much as Israel has done in south Lebanon.

For Rwanda's Tutsis, it is not merely a fight to keep political control. Like many Israelis, they fear defeat means extermination. Their anxiety is built on recent history and the continued slaughter of Tutsis in eastern Zaire.

But, as Israel has discovered, pushing the problem away does not resolve it. While Rwanda's Tutsis can breathe more easily with Hutu extremists and their Zairean cohorts fleeing from the border, the rout has done little to diminish the prospect of bloodshed.

The threat lies with the same forces that led the 1994 genocide and fled after their defeat by the Rwanda Patriotic Front. Gen Kagame argues that extremists were "ethnically cleansing" Zaire in preparation for carving out a de facto Hutu state to wage war on Rwanda.

Gen Kagame said: "One sure thing was that after cleansing the whole of eastern Zaire of [the Banyamulenge] they [the Hutu extremists] were going to come

back here. They have been infiltrating, they have been carrying out incursions from Zaire and killing people here. They've been killing survivors. They've been killing local administration people.

"The idea was to have a 'pure' base, a base where they could operate with freedom, with nobody who is not of their kind."

Hutu extremists of the Interahamwe militia joined soldiers from the defeated Rwandan army around the towns of Bukavu and Kamanyola, within striking distance of Rwanda. They became increasingly bound up with Burundi's Hutu rebels in a common cause to overthrow the Tutsi-dominated systems of both countries.

The extent of the influence of Rwandan Hutu extremists in Zaire was laid bare as Banyamulenge rebels fought towards Bukavu. Former soldiers of the crushed Rwandan army were seen controlling road-blocks or working with Zairean troops.

With the Banyamulenge claiming to control swaths of eastern Zaire, Gen Kagame is circumspect on any buffer zone. "My priority is not to have a buffer zone, the priority is not to have those militias at all. That would be my major interest," he said.

But there is a belief in Kigali that pushing the militias and refugees deeper into Zaire at least puts the problem at arms' length.

"They've been killing survivors. They've been killing local administration people. The idea was to have a 'pure' base where the Hutu extremists could operate with freedom, with nobody who is not of their kind"

Chris McGreal reports from Kigali

breath. He is not alone among Rwandan soldiers in viewing many of his Burundian counterparts as too extreme and uncompromising in dealing with the Hutu majority.

But there is no doubt that the Banyamulenge rebellion has served the interests of both Kigali and Bujumbura.

Two weeks ago, Burundi's military leader, Major Pierre Buyoya, looked precarious. Regional sanctions after his July coup hit government revenues and hardened Tutsi attitudes.

Maj Buyoya broke a Tutsi extremist credo by offering Hutu rebels unconditional negotiations in the hope that a regional summit would ease sanctions. He failed, but the Banyamulenge have provided him with some relief.

Pakistan siege saves Islamists

Suzanne Goldenberg in Islamabad reports on the comeback of a party that claims to speak with the voice of the people

PAKISTAN'S Islamists are turning into legend their two-day siege of the capital, which exposed the vulnerability of Benazir Bhutto's government and, at a stroke, rescued the ruling party from the political wilderness.

Riot police sealed off Islamabad with barricades and barbed wire, reducing the Jamaat-Islami's "million-man march" on Monday to a prayer in of a few thousand faithful that was dispersed by clouds of tear gas. But the Islamist leader was undaunted.

"They crushed the sugar cane and all the sweetness came out," Qazi Hussain Ahmed, the Jamaat-Islami leader, told a few thousand of his supporters, mainly students from lower middle-class homes, at a congratulatory rally in Rawalpindi. The crowd roared its approval.

The Jamaat, which has benefited hugely from its demonstration calling for the removal of Ms Bhutto, hitching the cause of Islamisation to popular discontent with her three-year-old government. "We have become the voice of the people," Mr Ahmed told the Guardian.

A month ago, the Jamaat, founded in Lahore in 1941,

seemed condemned to the sidelines. It won just three seats at the last elections in 1993. The rout of its protégés in Afghanistan by the rival Taliban faction was an additional loss of face.

But by laying siege to Islamabad for two days, forcing the closure of schools and disrupting normal business, it has proved that for street power, its well-organised cadre are rivaled only by the governing Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

The Jamaat started its campaign against Ms Bhutto a few months ago. "As far as corruption is concerned, this is the worst government of our history. The rampant corruption has reached a stage where the economy has failed and the people cannot bear it," Mr Ahmed said.

Unlike the other opposition parties, however, the Jamaat will not rest with the removal of Ms Bhutto and the convening of elections. It wants an overhaul of Pakistani society.

"This movement is for the awakening of the people. Our objective is that the whole class, which is a class of exploiters, should be ousted from power," Mr Ahmed said. "Our problem is that all our resources are in the hands of

a few who are looting the nation and who have no sympathy for the poor because they are feudals."

Although he presents himself as a man of reason, Mr Ahmed has little patience for the activities that take place within the "house of evil", or parliament, and he resigned from the senate in September. "Democracy means nothing in our country because those who are democrats are feudals," he said.

Despite the liberal outlook of the country's elite, he said:

"This movement is for the awakening of the people. Our aim is to oust from power a class of exploiters"

"I think a very vast majority of Pakistanis are true believers. Many people may look free and may not wear *hijab* [the veil], but in their heart of hearts they are believers." The Jamaat has been calling for the enforcement of a constitutional clause that would require all MPs to show they are pious Muslims.

He has publicly warned that there would be bloodshed if Ms Bhutto does not step down, an eventually demo-

crats fear could provoke a return to military rule.

Even the PPP has admitted that the Jamaat has added to mounting pressure on the government, he argues that the main opposition Pakistan Muslim League (PML) has been equally discomfited. "It's not only the Jamaat confrontation with the government, Jamaat has its own struggle for pre-eminence within the opposition as well, so Jamaat has tried to jumpstart opposition efforts against the government," Aitzaz Ahsan, a former law minister and the PPP leader of the upper house or senate, said.

Mushaid Hussain, the PML spokesman, agreed. "There is a pressure on us to perform, as well as to compete with them."

Both parties will be put to the test in the coming days as the Jamaat struggles to sustain the momentum for two weeks of protests in the run-up to a women's rally on November 11, and the PML prepares its response. "There will be peaks and troughs, but we will sustain it," said Khurshid Ahmed, the sole remaining Jamaat member in the senate. "We are not in a hurry because we are not merely a political party, we are a movement."

Four former Pakistan army officers were convicted yesterday of plotting to overthrow the government and sentenced to prison terms ranging from two to 14 years.

Jail turns star-gazer into star pundit

Jane Knight in Caracas

ASTROLOGER José Bernardo Gómez had foreseen prison, followed by social acclaim, on his own astrological charts, but hadn't understood why.

Last week the meaning became clear. Mr Gómez was picked up by Venezuela's secret police and thrown into a tiny cell for 18 hours. Then he was interrogated about remarks he made during a business conference earlier this month predicting the downfall and probable death of the president.

Freed after a second sleepless night, Mr Gómez,

president of Venezuela's astrological association, has shot to stardom.

"I said that President Rafael Caldera is astrologically very marked with the symbol of death," he said. "By June 1997, he won't be heading the country."

He predicted that Mr Caldera, who will be 81 in January, will probably die after a brief illness, although retirement is a possibility. An unknown political figure aged between 40 and 50 will become president.

Mr Gómez is so certain of the future that he said he would give up astrology if he was wrong. "If by June the president is in good

health and continues with his functions, I'll quit."

Months before Mr Caldera was elected in December 1993, Mr Gómez predicted his victory. At that time, he predicted that Mr Caldera's presidency could end "with the surprise of his death".

Earlier, Mr Gómez had foreseen the rough timing of two 1992 coup attempts. In a newspaper article in late 1991, he said there would be a violent explosion in January 1992, followed by "great tension" from November 28 to December 31. The coup attempts were on February 4 and November 27.

The government's res-

ponse to Mr Gómez's latest prediction has left political analysts questioning an apparent nervousness about the president's health.

The interior minister, José Guillermo Andueza, said the astrologer was detained because of the "political implications" of his prediction. But the fiscal general, Ivan Darío Badell, ordered an investigation into the detention.

Mr Gómez's telephone has not stopped ringing since he was freed. He now plans to drop individual clients and concentrate on political predictions.

"My life has changed in a week," he said. "I didn't know that would happen."

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The Bank gets its way
But there's a catch: it's the wrong medicine

KENNETH CLARKE has got it wrong this time. So far, since inheriting an economy whose prospects were transformed by the post-Black Wednesday devaluation in 1992, he has proved a surprisingly deft chancellor steering the economy on a course of modest expansion and low inflation. Now he is letting electoral politics drive his economic decisions. We hope we are wrong but there must be a deep suspicion that he is raising interest rates now to appease the City in advance of tax cuts in next month's budget. It should be the other way round. If he is worried that the recovery will disintegrate into a consumer boom leading to higher inflation (no one is talking about an investment or export boom at present) then he should be raising income tax at least for a while. This would have the double advantage of dampening consumer spending while reducing the worrying budget deficit. Higher interest rates don't address the deficit but they do risk stultifying investment and exports. Since the first week in August the value of the pound has risen by 7.5 per cent against major world currencies thereby eroding much of industry's new-found competitiveness. From a purely tactical point of view, if he decided to bow — however misguided — to Bank of England pressure to raise interest rates, he might as well have raised them by more if only to quell expectations of a repeat performance. The Treasury can't seriously think that a single 0.25 per cent rise in rates will halt an incipient spending boom. Small wonder, the Federation of Small Businesses was up in arms yesterday. And why is he so worried about inflation? Mr Clarke is supposed to be the responsible chancellor putting economics above politics. Where is the evidence of a wage or price explosion? The world is different now. Globalisation, the information revolution plus

the Government's own labour "reforms" (with attendant job insecurity) have not only changed labour markets but have also overstated the rate of inflation (as when much more powerful computers sell at unchanged prices). In the United States — even without the debatable benefits of the Thatcherite revolution — unemployment is now down to 5 per cent (as against 7.4 per cent here) without stoking up inflation. Why should we be different over here? In some parts of the US unemployment is down to 2 per cent and even 1.5 per cent. In Britain the Government doesn't publish regional inflation rates so we don't know, for instance, whether East Anglia which has unemployment of "only" 5.7 per cent is suffering higher inflation than elsewhere. Probably not. The point is that unless the Government is prepared to test the waters a bit more, we won't know whether economic expansion could be greater, and unemployment much lower, without generating fresh inflation. Once again the Treasury is using last year's Bradshaw to predict a future which won't be like the past. For instance, during the next 12 months up to £20 billion in windfall capital gains will be distributed to millions of people by the building societies. Alliance and Leicester announced a £1,000 per member distribution this week. What chance will a 0.25 per cent rise in interest do to stem that being spent? If the Chancellor is worried about overheating arising from consumer spending he should increase income tax rather than raise interest rates at a time when Britain's recently acquired competitiveness is being eroded by a sharp rise in sterling. Of course, if Mr Clarke is secretly preparing for a fiscally austere budget with tax increases, we will eat our words. And chancellors will fly.

Rediscovering there is a Society
At least the Forum accepts life outside the nuclear family

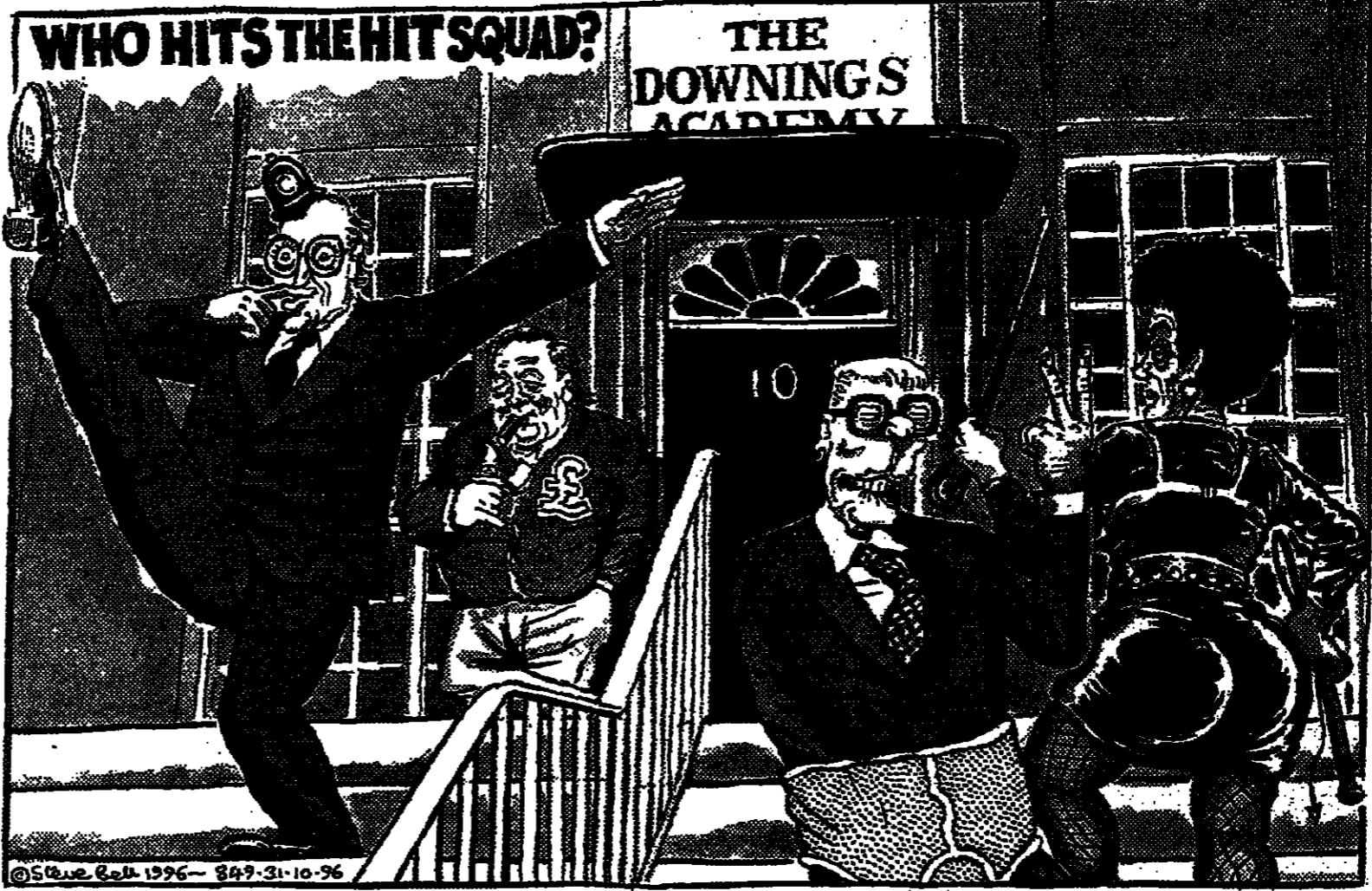
MODERN DAY Moses are rightly regarded with suspicion. Modern day prophets who preach against moral relativism but want to draw up Ten New Commandments for contemporary times should be viewed even more suspiciously. Surely the first rules out the second. If you believe in moral absolutes — and declare your commitment to Christianity — then surely the Ten Commandments should need no modern day amendments. For all these reasons we have had our doubts about Nicholas Tate, the chief executive of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority (SCAA). He has been too ready to link the decline in religion with a decline in moral values which is an insult to humanists; too simplistic in his attack on moral relativism, narrowly defined as do-it-yourself morality; too blind to the need for teachers to warn about the dangers of absolutes and the importance of taking into account circumstances, conditions and culture. Yet out of Dr Tate's Ten Commandment Forum some important lessons have been learned — by Dr Tate among others. The first is the readiness of ministers — even the sensible Gillian Shephard — to exploit his report for populist purposes, explicitly criticising the Forum for its failure to place enough emphasis on the importance of families and implicitly supporting the minority of five out of 150 members who wanted only one form of family life promoted: the traditional conflate version of a

heterosexual married couple and their children. Dr Tate has been robustly defending his Forum's refusal to endorse this one traditional form of family life. How would teachers operate in inner city schools where a majority of their children are from single parent families? Circumstances can be crucial. Perhaps all Mrs Shephard was trying to do was divert attention from the Forum's important interim message to ministers: that schools alone cannot turn the tide in a society where "the real values most promoted today are success, self-interest, wealth, winning, successful deception and not getting caught." If she was, she was unsuccessful as the individual members continued their criticisms of the current government yesterday. One professor of religious education spoke of the gulf between what they were asked to do and "the money-mad society that is affecting every value". Failing families and failing schools were not the only culprits even if ministers were unable to acknowledge their responsibility. Unlike an earlier prime minister, the draft new moral code recognises not just that there is such a thing as society but the importance of "collective endeavour for the common good of society". Margaret Thatcher's individualistic social order is ruled out. Even more pertinently, so is the modern political phenomenon of "no shame, no blame". On this wish, we are at one with Dr Tate: if only ministers and MPs exposed as crooks, would resign.

Memories of an iron Chancellor
But if he is promoted as a role model, best to run for a bus

INEVITABLY the Great Moral Crusade is now bringing the caners and floggers out of their cupboards. John Major may have hosed down Gillian Shephard, but the Back to the Good Old Days gang on the Tory back benches, determined to cast out cossetting and eliminate the ninny-piminy, may be harder to contain. All the more so, perhaps, once they've read the obituary of Lady Chancellor in yesterday's Daily Telegraph. Sylvia Chancellor was the daughter of Sir Richard Paget, an inventor, who, to test the effectiveness of a sign language he had devised, stuffed the ears of his daughters with treacle. When electricity was installed at the family home in Somerset, Sylvia (aged nine) was chosen to do the wiring. When the girls grew older, their father required them to catch buses along Park Lane and throw themselves off the conductor's platform, backwards. Sir Richard saw this as a test of his theory that the force

of the air behind them would cushion them, ensuring they landed safely. Guardian readers may think such behaviour extreme. Yet, as some Tory MP — our money is on Sir Rhodes Boyson — will no doubt point out, it must be some proof of their efficacy that Lady Chancellor died at the age of 95. Moral crusaders may be less enthralled, however, by the information which follows. Sir Richard's marriage, it seems, was somewhat semi-detached. The children's mother, Lady Muriel, spent much of her time engaged in good works in Russia. When asked if he and Lady Muriel were by any chance related, Sir Richard used to reply: "Only by marriage." The moral of which, if any, appears to be that while jumping off buses backwards is not necessarily fatal, nor is a fractured family background... Not, of course, Sir Rhodes please note, that the Guardian advocates either.



Letters to the Editor
Rupert's remote control

THE shortcomings of the Broadcasting Bill will leave many consumers on the wrong side of Rupert Murdoch's "global gate" (The keeper of the global gate, October 29). We argued throughout the passage of the Bill that consumers must be able to access the various digital systems — terrestrial, satellite and cable — without having to buy different set-top boxes. If consumers are not to end up being locked into an exclusive arrangement with Mr Murdoch or having to purchase several boxes, it is crucial that Ofcom and the DTI have sufficiently strong powers to protect consumers' interests. We are urging the DTI to ensure all broadcasters have open access on fair terms to a single set-top box. Otherwise, Mr Murdoch's global gate will shut off many consumers' access to the wide range of programmes digital TV will have to offer. Robin Simpson, Acting Director, National Consumer Council, 20 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0DH.

RUPERT Murdoch's relationship with BT is more complicated even than Henry Porter implies. An increasing number of Sky viewers are not Sky subscribers: they receive their channels from their local cable company. The relationship between cable operators and Sky has always been tense. Murdoch would prefer to deliver his channels direct, without the intervention of third parties, enabling Sky to keep more of the revenues and to promote other services to those viewers. At the same time, BT is having a hard time from the same cable operators. In the areas where cable is available, up to a third of homes now get their phone connections from the competing companies. It would be in BT and Murdoch's combined interests to eliminate them. That's also why BT was offering Sky subscribers special phone deals until the Office of Telecommunications objected. Alan Burdett-Gray, 7 Fosse Dale, London SE3 9BD.

HENRY Porter's compelling article is both timely and telling. There is an additional danger that could finally leave Murdoch in a key position in the UK and elsewhere: EBC Transmission, comprising all the 850 or so staff and the UK and World Service transmitter sites, is due shortly to be privatised. Whether BSKYB or any other Murdoch subsidiary is a successful bidder will soon be known. What cannot be ruled out is the strong possibility of a further sale or takeover of the privatised transmission company in two or three years hence, putting finally in Rupert Murdoch's hands an essential piece of the terrestrial UK and World Service transmission chain. Brian Marsh, 111 Wardour Street, London W1V 4AY.

Thrashing out a policy to deal with delinquent politicians

REITERATE the long-standing policy of the Labour Party on home-school contracts: "We will ensure that written home-school contracts are developed for every school, every parent and every pupil" (No apologies, no regrets, October 30). The Government, in proposing that home-school contracts be a compulsory part of admissions policies in some schools is in danger of forcing other schools to accept those pupils rejected as a result. If all schools have contracts, we can ensure that the "difficult children" you talk about are covered and not simply those in schools with good parent-school relationships. It was precisely because Gillian Shephard was unable to answer the logic of this point on the Today programme that she grasped in desperation for the cane, without having discussed her enthusiasm first with the Prime Minister. David Blankett, Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

IN A COUNTRY where, for decades, normal methods of child control have embraced legalised non-consensual sadomasochistic abuse, isn't it too hilariously inconsistent for the state now to be defending in Strasbourg its attack upon consensual sadomasochistic adult whose addiction most likely arises from such practices? Is flagellomania truly the English vice, as the French have long believed, or is simple humbug our most characteristic failing? K Y Maloney, Corlough, Beltrubet, Co Cavan.

AS A TEACHER you came amply because you care for discipline. Once caring is institutionalised, one finds that less than 1 per cent of the school population ever need it. Caring with care instils discipline and enhances learning. No wonder African students in Britain do so well. (Dr) O G Aghim, Grosvenor Gardens, London NW11.

CANING did not do me damage — nor did it do any good. Exclusion, in the company of my excluded friends, may have accelerated my descent into delinquency. If teachers need a choice of obscenities to control children, please choose the cane — it's more honest, quicker, easier to recover from and less obscene than exclusion. Andy Wilson, King George Street, London SE10.

THINK John Major is wrong to quash the request for the use of corporal punishment in schools because, as a retired teacher who used corporal punishment — the "Lochgeilly belt" — in Rockwell School for many years, I found it extremely effective in getting recalcitrant pupils to obey orders. I remember belting a boy for throwing a chisel and another for carving his initials on a benchtop. But I would gladly have delegated my duty to belt him to a higher authority of a democratic kind if such had been available. E G Macfarlane, Forth Road, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD5.

WHAT an unedifying spectacle it has been to witness Gillian Shephard creating a rod for her own back. David Atkinley, 41 The Hill, Crowton, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3RF.

In House

HUGO Young's article (Howard the home alone secretary, October 30), stated that, in the Home Secretary's early days at the Home Office he was the subject of an "unprecedented complaint" to the Permanent Secretary by under- and assistant-secretaries in the policy field. This canard was first printed by your newspaper in November 1993 when you reported that my predecessor, Sir Clive Whitmore, had been sent an "unprecedented letter" by key policy-makers in these grades, complaining about Mr Howard. Sir Clive wrote to you on November 11, 1993, making it clear that he had not received such a letter. The position remains the same. Richard Wilson, Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT.

Talkin' about my generation

FOR the last 30 years the media culture and political climate have been dominated by a single, demographically numerous generation. I refer of course to the baby-boom people. The cultural attitudes expressed over this time give the appearance of an extended period of passage drama. We all know about the sixties, the heady adolescence, followed by the sober seventies. In popular historiography this resembles an extended hangover of angst and disillusion mixed in with the darkness of liberal excess. In the eighties, this same generation, now "adult" and worldly-wise, embraced the respectable selfishness of the cynical Thatcher years. Then came the nineties and they're at it again, this time feeling the weight of accumulating responsibilities. And bingo! we see family values and morality. Whatever next? Please, somebody save us from Grey Power before we find ourselves in The Decade of the Oldie. F Macgregor (aged 25), 17 Chesterton Hall Crescent, Cambridge CB4 1AW.

Jon Snow: a brother up in arms

I AM shocked to read (Some mother's poor bloody son, October 30) that my brother, Jon Snow, has published a memoir blaming my mother for his inability to form close relationships. She is severely ill with Alzheimer's Disease. She is therefore, quite literally, defenceless in the face of such a ghastly public retribution. I have another brother. We have maintained the closest relationship with each other throughout our lives. Is it possible, therefore, that Jon Snow's argument is faulty? I have no disagreement with him on one point. It is high time for the cruelty inherent in the continued existence of private

boarding schools to be exposed for what it is. These terrible houses of separation and unacceptably attitudes to others provide detached parenting with the filiiest alibi. Upper middle class life of the 1950s equips my brother with no excuse for failing to accept full moral responsibility for his own life in late middle age. I cannot see how anything in his childhood can now justify the humiliation of our mother, whose memory of those times has been wiped out. It is simply pitiless. Self-indulgence has gained the upper hand over decency. Tom Snow, Mumsway Road, London SE22.

Romania's attack of amnesia

THE Romanian charge d'affaires, Paris, (Letters, October 26) whitewashes Romania's record towards the Jews before and during the second world war. Statutes passed in 1938 and 1940 subjected Romanian Jews to systematic state discrimination. Jewish businesses were "Romanianised" and Jews were expelled from the civil service, the army, and cultural life. In January 1941, the Romanian Army presided over pogroms in Bucharest and Jassy in which over 2,500 Jews died. During the invasion of Russia, the Romanian Army assisted the SS in the massacre of 150,000 Jews in Southern Ukraine. Although the Jews of central Romania were protected from deportation to Nazi extermination centres, the government expelled 130,000 Romanian Jews from the provinces of Bessarabia and Bukovina into Transis-

tria where 90,000 perished in dreadful conditions. Until the Romanian authorities acknowledge this awful history there is little hope for their current policy toward ethnic minorities. (Prof) David Cesarani, Director, Wiener Library, 4 Devonshire Street, London W1N 2BH.

Miaow

SO the producers of Les Misérables have sacked half the cast? May we now look forward to the sun setting on Sunset Boulevard; the North Vietnamese Army taking Saigon; Starlight Express running into the buffers and the ultimate music-lovers' revenge, a one-way trip to the vets for those whining Cats? Nigel Linford, 12 Windermere Court, East Drive, Brighton BA2 2BU.

A Country Diary

THE BURREN, IRELAND: We walked up 1,400ft in the Vosses Mountains of Alsace and down again from Hungerplatz to the valley of Andlau. We sat in the sun to eat our picnic. Near us was a fine patch of thistles and then we saw the flash of a pair of goldfinches, perching so lightly that the thistle-heads scarcely moved. Moreover they took not the slightest notice of us, so busy were they pecking and devouring the seeds. Some days later I was startled to see in the Dominican church in Colmar another goldfinch! I was looking at the Virgin of the Rose Buses and there among the roses was the bird, immortalised by the painter, Schongauer (1473), perfect, the red facial mask distinctive. When I looked even closer I saw a great tit with its black ventral stripe and yellow eyebrows, all birds of the region, all depicted centuries

before the great Audubon and other painters of the ornithological scene. Later, as we walked by the Canal du Briare in Burgundy, we came upon a charm of goldfinches. There must have been at least 10, again feeding off thistle-heads, their leaves yellow-gold, their heads drooping, heavy with black seeds. So to our Burren, where yesterday a goldfinch poised on knapweed. Behind were hawthorn trees, their berries the colour of rich burgundy while further along the hedge holly and rowan berries were beaten to and fro by the surging wind. So I pursued the goldfinch to Keats. "Sometimes goldfinches one by one will drop From low hanging branches; little space they stay; But sip, and twitter, and their feathers sleek; Then off at once, as in wonted freak." SARAH POYNITZ

Handwritten scribble at the bottom of the page.

Vertical strip on the right edge of the page containing various advertisements and snippets of text, including 'The Guardian Diary', 'Matthew Norman', and 'Language The... and glory Jan M... Silicon birth...'

Diary

Matthew Norman

WELL, we've done it. Today, a fortnight after the campaign began, Kenny Bell resumes his rightful place on television. He will appear live, with trumpet but without Jazzmen, at 2.30pm on Britain Talks Back, on satellite channel Granada Talk TV (that's Channel 21 for those with cable). Kenny was jubilant yesterday, generously crediting the Diary and its loyal army of readers ("It's a very nice of them to write in for me, and please thank them all.") for his renaissance. "Mind you, they'll be seeing plenty of me - I've put on a bit of weight since I was last on TV. That must have been in Germany last year, then in Ireland at the Cork Jazz Festival. I think the Irish and Germans like me better than the English." What a savage indictment of the British disease (build 'em up, knock 'em down) that he should be appreciated abroad but not at home. Kenny Bell will understand how he feels. But the tide has turned. Kenny is back.

THE spirit of the Key-ring Kops lives on in Hereford, where PCs Ray Bambrugh and Stanley Goodin have, according to Police Magazine, made a challenge for the next Police Bravery Awards. The constables were summoned to a house in which a man who had been arrested in a gas-filled room, while holding a box of matches. Deciding on immediate action, both charged at the locked door. PC Bambrugh slipped and ruptured his Achilles tendon, while PC Goodin, swinging his boot at the door, also slipped and landed on his colleague, breaking his own arm. Not great policing, perhaps, but splendid stick. Helmets off to the pair of you!

ALTHOUGH not broadcast here until December, Andrew Davies's adaptation of Moll Flanders has already gone out in the States. However, the PBS network was so shocked by its raunchiness - Davies managed to have Moll in bed with 17 men, including a lesbian scene not included by George Eliot - that it removed all the sex, while those stations courageous enough to show the sexy version caved in on the question of actor Christopher Fulford's testicles, and hid them out in the style of Crimewatch disguising someone's face. Mr Davies is controlling any artistic distasteful. "I don't really care what they do in the States," he says, "but I'm sure Chris Fulford isn't too pleased. They've mentioned funny about body parts over there. What American telly needs most is English bollocks. I'm relying on Mary Whitehouse to back me up."

NEWS reaches us of a resurrection. In the Style section of last week's Sunday Times was an article about the dangers of liposuction, illustrated by a large picture of a Brazilian model. "Too high a price: Claudia Riz, who died following liposuction," said the caption. Is this the same Claudia Riz, we wonder, who has featured widely in the Brazilian press since leaving hospital, having come out of a coma induced by an allergy to anaesthetic, on October 18, nine days before the Sunday Times article? It's a miracle, a miracle.

READING New Labour activist Max Clifford calls regarding our celebration of the Sun's exquisite wording on its story about the woman who alleges that George Boycott beat her up. "Margaret, 44, made her allegations during a meeting at a London hotel with publicist Max Clifford," it said with glorious innocence. Max was equally innocent. "It's wonderful, isn't it?" he says, "especially because of the coincidences." And what were these? "Well, the waiter looked the image of Stewart Higgins, the Sun's editor, and the doorman was the absolute apt of Nell Walker, the deputy editor."

Advert in the personal column of Disability Now magazine grabs the eye. "Frochman, now retired," reads, "would like to correspond with a one-legged woman. Age and nationality unimportant."



Watch the flight of the left-arm spinner

Commentary

Hugo Young

WHEN Kenneth Clarke says that Britain must keep open the option of joining the European single currency in 1999, he is commonly described as a crazy Europhile. When Tony Blair says that Britain must keep open the option of not joining the single currency in 1999, he is declared to have joined the Euro-sceptics. Although there is a nuance of difference between these positions, deriving from where they're coming from, it is as nothing to the vastness of the ground the two men share. Both insist that the future cannot be foretold, and that the formal British attitude must therefore remain uncommitted. Yet the epithets applied to them are exactly the opposite. No wonder the great British public finds it hard to warm to the obsession the political class has with economic and monetary union (EMU), or join the fanatical scrutineers who see the earth being shaken every time a senior politician says a word about

it. It is, admittedly, a subject on which the leaders are often more interested in promoting confusion than clarity. The dissembling, as opposed to the persuading, arts of politics are much in evidence. The words spoken in public tend to be instantly, often previously, qualified or doctored or somehow unclarified by words not spoken at all - that is to say, by the gloss placed upon them by unseen paladins of spin. Keeping the policy options open seems to mean keeping the verbal usages opaque. If there is doubt about attitudes to EMU, it is because the spokesmen prefer it that way.

All the same, what happened to an interview Robin Cook gave on Sunday took to new lengths the modern perils of the double-take, perhaps the triple-take, perhaps the already fixed as the chief sceptic in the shadow cabinet, was almost universally judged to have taken his scepticism further than ever. He'd said it might not be possible for sterling to enter EMU in 1999. He'd emphasised all the difficulties ahead. He'd pushed Labour sharply into the sceptic camp.

And all added up to a crucial exercise in political positioning. And as a sub-text, Robin Cook had scored vital points in his unceasing rivalry with Gordon Brown, who is well known, we're told, for holding an entirely different position. I've no doubt that this ver-

impeccable performance, lining Labour up cheek-to-cheek on the fence with Kenneth Clarke. But saying otherwise is not just a travesty of the text in front of us. It is more largely misleading. If there is an antithesis between the "sceptic" Blair-Cook position and the "phiblic" Clarke, it is the reverse of what has been widely implied. Clarke's fence-sitting is thought to conceal a secret agenda to take Britain in. Yet in truth Clarke is far less likely than Blair ever to be able to achieve that. All the evidence suggests that the Tory party will never permit it in 1999, whereas Blair's party, though now suddenly cast as sceptic, would certainly be able to do so. If the terms were right, and if the leadership pressed the button, the critical mass of support could be assembled under Tony Blair in a way that is unimaginable under John Major.

Consider Cook's interview. From Labour's supposedly leading sceptic, it was a muted performance

If you doubt this, consider the full scope of Mr Cook's interview. From Labour's supposedly leading sceptic, it was a muted performance. At no point did he raise a single objection to EMU in principle. He had every opportunity, but failed to take it. There was no word about sovereignty, no sucking-in of breath about the dangers to democracy, no lethal murmuring on the matter of central bankers and their lack of accountability to the House of Commons. With the possible

exception of Mr Clarke, no Conservative politician would ever have tried to get away with it. No present minister, even one who favoured the economic case for EMU, would be capable of giving an interview on the subject without ritually bowing to Parliament, registering the uniqueness of the pound sterling, kissing the arse of British nationalism.

It is quite likely that, come six months in office, a Blair government will make the judgment that it wants to wait still longer to see what kind of EMU seems to be emerging. There is plenty of talk now about the plausibility of averting continued positive commitment to EMU, while waiting until 2001, or 2002 when the actual single currency comes into being.

In that circumstance, remaining as close to the side of influence and argument will obviously be a continuing British priority, but one from which poor Mr Clarke, the Tory Party's viceregal phobia, win or lose, will soon have excluded it. What we learn from the latest flurries is the opposite of what's been said. Deconstructing the spin, one discovers that Labour alone is capable of submerging the politics into the economics of EMU. The economics may be a tough call but not judgment of the economic case is fatally hindered by the kind of political fundamentalism that Mr Cook, Mr Blair and Mr Brown are united in avoiding. This is not a common but a fundamental difference between the parties, one of them straining all the time for distance from Europe, the other developing a mature contempt for such a fantasy. It could become a difference big enough to justify Mr Blair asserting that the election was won, among other things, on the European question.

Yes, Carmen, there is some good fiction



James Wood

RHETORICAL questions are phrasal boomerangs: they may hit their senders on return. On Tuesday night, at the Booker Prize ceremony, the publisher Carmen Calli, in the middle of a complaint about certain critics, asked this question: "Why put up with a critical apparatus which would like Nick Hornby's High Fidelity to be set in Chicago and written by Saul Bellow? Should this critical apparatus approach you, my advice would be to surrender to its charms; it is difficult to imagine a nicer conversion. Calli spent much of her speech attacking those critics - including this one - who have in recent years denigrated the English novel. She argued that such denigration had more to do with post-imperial depression than any objective knowledge of the contemporary English novel. That American fiction had been wildly over-estimated at the expense of English fiction; and that English fiction was in "good shape".

so, even as it is the business of publishers to moisten the Frankfurt Book Fair with glistening superlatives. If, as both Calli and I agree, English literature is exciting at present, it may be partly because some of the critics Calli complains about established a context within which such superlatives could no longer go unexamined. It is important that the critic does not succumb to rapid local enthusiasms. The publisher's function is to sell - as Carmen Calli did admirably on Tuesday night as her firm Virago did admirably over many years, rediscovering all kinds of neglected writers, as Calli did less admirably two years ago in the Daily Telegraph when she called the novelist and near-pornographer Helen Zahavi a writer of "real genius". The publisher is always, as it were, at a party, yelling out: "enough, the critic's task is to measure the horizon, and see how we fit it. It is to take a longer view." Dr Johnson suggested 100 years as posterity's test. But to name only two writers of the many fine writers living in Britain, I'm certain that both Amit Chaudhuri and Alan Hollinghurst will write great novels in the next 20 years.

MY own view was re-ordered by the experience of judging the Booker Prize in 1994, where we had to choose a winner from two fine novels, Hollinghurst's *The Folding Star*, and James Kelman's *How Late It Was, How Late*. I do not think that we're overflourishing with great writers; but it seemed to me then that a literature that could produce, in one publishing year, two such books (crucially, books with real verbal excitement) did not need help from critics. In her speech, Calli appears to confuse those critics who have been less than polite about English fiction with certain writers who have recently been seen killing off the novel. Earlier this year, George Steiner suggested that fiction could not now compare with the best reportage; meanwhile, VS Naipaul has renounced writing novels, and English fiction is not threatened by rude English critics, who live within its familial hoop; it is threatened by those who do not believe in fiction. They are many, and they include those publishers who would rather publish memoirs than new novels; those newspapers who have turned book reviewing over to anonymous diarists; and those magazines and journals that used to run interesting new fiction and now publish "personal accounts". It is one of critic's tasks, along with praise and patience, to correct: to remind us all that as Keats wrote in a letter of March 1819, we live and work amongst "that most vulgar of all crowds, the literary."



We are back with the worst of 40 years ago, argues Larry Elliott: authoritarian policy backed by the threat of punishment, but without the underpinning of a just economy

Back to the 1950s

EVER since the 1963 Royal Variety performance, the days when John Lennon felt able to poke gentle fun at the Queen, there has been a deep yearning in Britain for a return to the respectful 1950s. Those were the last days of glory, when a British-led team made it first to the top of Everest, Jim Laker took 19 wickets at Old Trafford to dish the Aussies and Stanley Matthews won the cup for Blackpool.

Now it looks as if the 1950s are coming back: or rather, one bit of the 1950s. What we are not getting is the full employment, the progressive taxation and the determination of an interventionist state to use active welfare policies to reduce the gap between rich and poor. What we are being offered instead is social authoritarianism, a crackdown on law and order and discipline in schools; a willingness to tell people how they should conduct their relationships and bring up their children.

This combination of the free-market economics of the 1980s and the social policy of the 1950s is being sold as a cure-all solution to society's ills. But this is not a social policy, nor even a moral policy. It is a policy of cut-price containment - a cheap way of coping with the middle-class fear that a burgeoning "underclass" is out of control. The underlying analysis has some merit. Crime has doubled since the 1970s, almost half of new marriages end in divorce, there is a hardcore of disruptive pupils who do not want to learn. Once, politicians would have looked for an economic answer to these problems. However, the main political parties make only a token show of disagreeing on the

politicians have to argue about something, so the emergence of an economic consensus has left a space that is now being filled by moral posturing and naked populism from both sides of the political fence. Some of the signs of a 1950s revival were implicit in the abortive Back-to-Basics campaign of three years ago, when the Government attempted to reassert its authority after the economic debacle of Black Wednesday. But what is different this time

The ideal family unit will be made up of one male breadwinner and a wife who stays at home to care for the children

is that Labour's adoption of a more authoritarian social policy stance has legitimised the drift to the right. So while the first phase of the campaign in education was the seemingly non-controversial lionisation of the Three Rs and the demonising of "trendy teachers", the debate has now moved on to the desirability of restoring those other symbols of the 1950s - grammar schools and corporal punishment. Similarly, women should be aware that the emphasis on family values and the need for

parents to teach their children the difference between right and wrong is by no means the whole agenda. There will be pressure for tougher laws on abortion, and before long almost certainly calls for the ideal family unit to be made up of one male breadwinner and a wife who stays at home to care for the children. The good thing about this strategy is that it is cheap. Delivering little homilies to someone on income support or poverty wages on how they

should live their lives costs the better-off nothing. The bad thing about this Back-to-the-Future scenario is that it has not a hope in hell of solving the problems of the breakdown in civil society. Stand back a second from the sense of moral panic that the politicians have stirred up, and what we see is not the inheritance of the permissive society but the inevitable consequence of an economic system built around exclusion, alienation and greed. As the American writer E.J. Dionne puts it in his new book: "It's

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Lin Onus

Motifs of a continent

AT A barbecue on the terrace of his studio in Melbourne's Dandenong Ranges, painter and sculptor Lin Onus, who has died aged 47, unfurled a banner he had recently recovered, which had belonged to one of the first Aboriginal rights organisations, the Australian Aboriginals League. The banner had been made by his father, Bill Onus, in the 1930s.

It was Lin Onus who earlier this year brought to public attention the contested but now established fact that the Aboriginal community — just 1.7 per cent of Australia's population — provides about half of Australia's visual artists and about half the visual arts income. A member of the Aboriginal Arts Board of the Australia Council (the equivalent of the British Council) from 1989-93, he was chair of the Aboriginal Arts Committee from 1988-92.

Born in Melbourne, Lin

was a member of the Yorta Yorta community, who are currently fighting a claim for their traditional land, based on the Burnah Forest on the Murray River in south-eastern Australia. Lin's family has included numerous heroes of the struggle for Aboriginal rights. The present Yorta Yorta land claim is opposed by nearly 500 non-Aboriginal groups and individuals, including government authorities, law firms, farmers and mining companies.

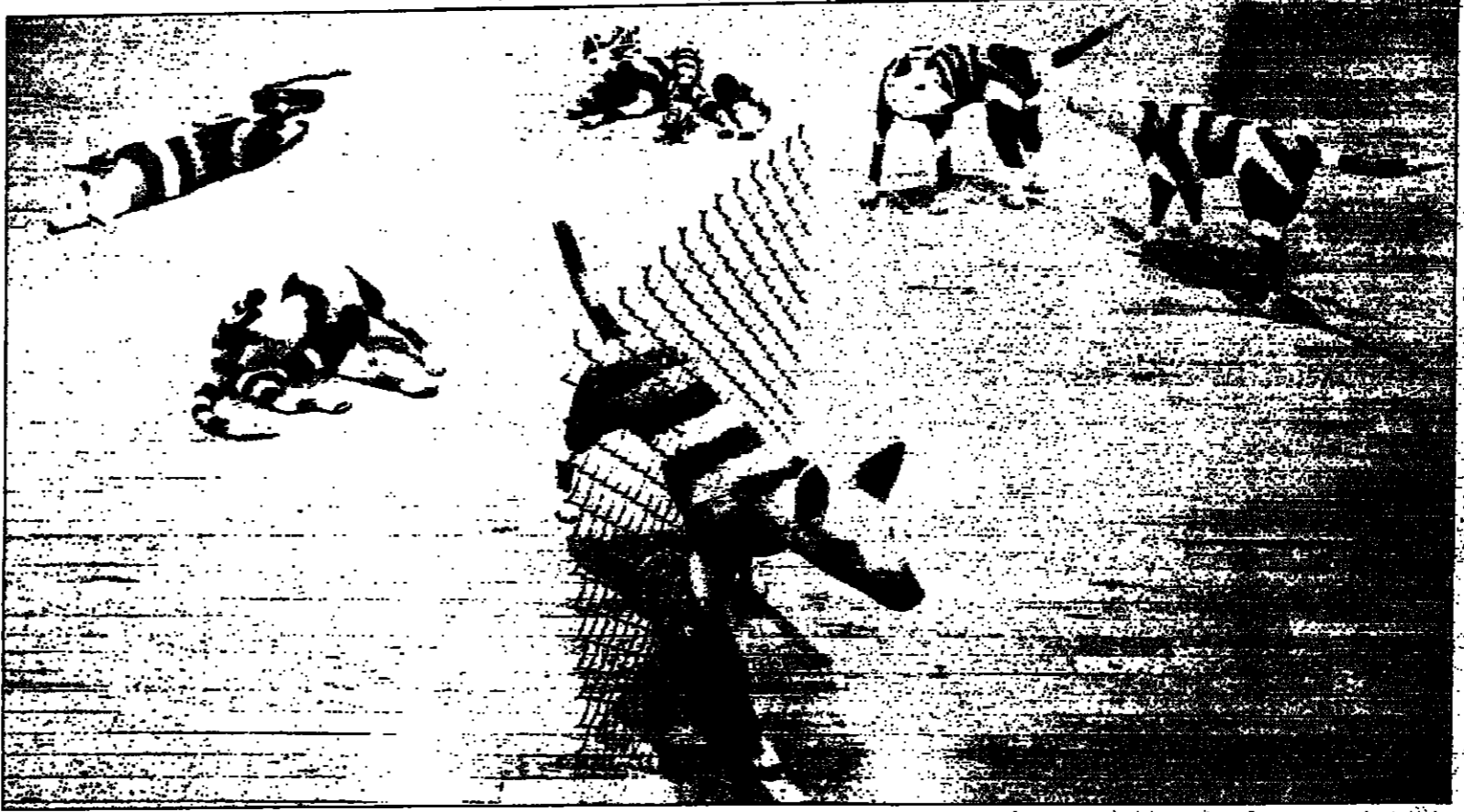
Despite growing up within a few miles of each other, I first met Lin in Scotland, at a first meeting in Scotland, when he brought the 1990 *Tasari Lia: My Family* exhibition of Aboriginal art to Europe. Shown at Glasgow's Third Eye Centre and at galleries in Sheffield and Swansea, it was the first international art festival organised by Aboriginal people. Lin designed an installation of several five-foot tall fruit-shaped lanterns for the show

which was then decorated by Lin, his wife Joanne and son Tiri.

Lin Onus was a self-taught artist, who travelled widely, developing his skills and involving himself in both arts and Aboriginal rights issues. He had more than a dozen solo exhibitions, participated in group exhibitions and won many awards for his work. His painting of radical Aboriginal activist and friend, Gary Foley, was a finalist in the 1995 Archibald Prize for portraiture.

A showing of his most recent paintings, Australian landscapes portraying indigenous fauna hidden among rocks and in the scrub and billabongs — was held in Melbourne in September last year. He employed an enigmatic combination of Western surrealism and Aboriginal motifs to make his statement about the Australia in which he lived.

He won the national Aboriginal art award in 1988, the



Dog day afternoon... Dingos 1989 by Lin Onus, exhibited in the 1993 exhibition *Aratjara: Art of the First Australians*

Shire of Sherbrooke community service award for cultural achievement in 1991, the prestigious RAKA award for Aboriginal art and culture from Melbourne University in 1993 and the national Aboriginal heritage award in 1995. He was awarded the member of the Order of Australia award in the 1993 Queen's Birthday list. It is similar in rank to an OBE.

Lin Onus's sudden death

came on the day that a report was published showing that Aboriginal people were likely to die 17 years younger than non-Aboriginal Australians. Australia's Minister for The Arts, Senator Richard Al-

ston, said he was saddened to hear of the loss of a prominent Australian artist. Senator Alston described Lin Onus as "one of Australia's most important visual artists", and said he had made a significant contribution to Australian art and culture.

David Langsam
Lin Onus, artist, born December 4, 1948; died October 23, 1995

Sir Roderick Barclay

Pioneer for Britain in the new Europe

WITH the 1945 election of the Labour government, and, later, in coming to terms with a uniting Europe, the diplomat Sir Roderick Barclay, who has died aged 87, helped the Foreign Office to bridge changing times.

Educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, he joined the diplomatic service in 1932 and started his diplomatic career in Brussels. In 1940 he was posted to France — returning by destroyer with the German victory — and was then posted to Washington. He ended his career as ambassador to Denmark (1958-60), and to Belgium (1963-69).

Labour's 1945 victory was greeted with some apprehension in the Foreign Office. Although in 1941 Anthony Eden had put forward proposals for broadening the department's intake, influential left-wing voices were pressing for it to be purged of what they considered to be effete upper-class reactionaries and for

their replacement by people more sympathetic to Labour's new world. The officials' apprehensions were not soothed by the appointment as foreign secretary in 1945 of a tough trade union leader, unashamedly working class and known in Whitehall for his brutal directness.

In fact, Ernest Bevin developed a strong loyalty to his department and they to him. Sending one ambassador off to his post, Bevin remarked, "You wouldn't be my choice. But you're the union's choice and I'm their general secretary." In the process Barclay, who succeeded Sir Francis Roberts in 1949 as principal private secretary, played a valuable part; he was hard working, loyal and discreet. Developing, like many Foreign Office officials, a considerable affection for Ernest Bevin.

On the European issue, until the early 1960s virtually no diplomat — or politician — thought it conceivable that the United Kingdom could abandon centuries of untram-

meled sovereignty and embroil itself in some continental grouping. Those born before the first world war found it difficult to merge with countries across the Channel, all of which, only a few years ago, had been defeated and occupied.

In 1961 Prime Minister Harold Macmillan opened discussions with the then European Economic Community about British membership. Edward Heath was appointed leader of the British team and Barclay, as deputy under-secretary, was appointed a member. He was in the new world of trade complexities, tariff quotas, Commonwealth preference, EEC financing and agricultural support. He was not the only senior official who had to ensure that the delegation's approach took account of the European political dimension but he had to convince his colleagues on the team, who went on to defend the cause of their departments with considerable talent. Barclay tackled his task, as he always did,



EEC negotiator... Barclay

meticulously, courteously and unflappably, and became by general consent not only the European political adviser of the team but its general manager.

The negotiations failed because of President de Gaulle's veto; it reflected in no way on the ability of the negotiating team. In that and in the transition from a Foreign Office exclusively concerned with political issues to one which grappled successfully with economic issues, Sir Roderick Barclay played a notable pioneering role.

He married in 1934 Jean Gladstone, who died earlier this year. They had a son and three daughters.

Roy Denman
Sir Roderick Barclay, diplomat, born February 22, 1909; died October 24, 1995

Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin

Beyond blue water

WITHOUT HMS *Invincible*, one of the Royal Navy's three small aircraft carriers, or "through-deck cruisers," the British would have found it extremely difficult to win the Falklands war. The decision to build the ships was largely that of Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin, who has died aged 75.

Griffin swam gallantly against the ebbing tide of Britain's marine interests. As naval secretary in the mid-1960s he was a key figure in abandoning large aircraft-carriers, which could not be afforded in the nuclear-submarine age. In his double role as controller of the Royal Navy in the early 1970s, he oversaw the conversion of the worldwide, "blue water" fleet into a North Atlantic anti-submarine and anti-aircraft force. He was thus largely responsible for the shape of today's surface fleet.

Griffin was born in Peshawar and entered the RN college at Dartmouth as a cadet aged 14. Four years later in 1939 he joined his first ship, the cruiser Gloucester. After patrols against German raiders in the Indian Ocean, the ship sailed to the Mediterranean in summer 1940 and was badly damaged by a bomb. Later, en route to join a destroyer in Cape Town, the merchantman on which he was sailing was sunk by a German commerce-raider off the West African coast. Griffin's lifeboat with 57 survivors was picked up by a British freighter and taken to Uruguay. From there he took a ship for Gibraltar where he

joined the destroyer *Fury*, which in July 1942 joined the escort of the tragic convoy PQ 17 to Murmansk in Russia.

A rumour that the battleship *Tirpitz* was at sea led the Admiralty to disperse the convoy instead of leaving the decision to commanders on the spot. U-boats and the Luftwaffe were thus free to destroy 23 out of 34 ships.

A month later the *Fury* was back in the Mediterranean, on Operation Pedestal, another convoy engagement. This managed to bring five out of 14 vessels to Malta with vital supplies, including oil.

Mentioned in dispatches, Griffin was sent to the new destroyer *Talybont* as first lieutenant, working with the transatlantic convoy escorts in the Western Approaches — the most important strategic struggle of the war against Germany. In 1943 Griffin, by now a navigation specialist, transferred to carriers in the Atlantic, and a longer tour in the Far East, where he won a second "mention".

After the war he worked in radar and signals and as a commander he was aboard the aircraft carrier *Eagle* and took part in the spectacular but politically catastrophic 1956 Suez expedition. As a captain from that year, he commanded a support-ship and 16 minesweepers based first in Malta, running patrols off rebellious Cyprus, and then in Singapore, during "confrontation" with Indonesia. His last seaborne command before becoming rear-admiral in 1966 was the *Eagle's* sister ship *Ark Royal*. He was naval secretary

when the Labour government decided against a new generation of these large carriers. Too much of a stretched defence budget was being spent on nuclear submarines and the Polar programme.

More economies led to Griffin's acquisition of two hats at once, as operational flag officer, Plymouth, and administrative admiral superintendent of the local dockyard. He showed his sense of humour by writing memoranda to himself. As controller from 1971, Griffin was responsible for ship design. It was during his tenure that the navy got the long-serving Type 21 frigate and Type 42 guided-missile destroyer and took a key role in NATO's maritime defence. It was as a member of the future fleet working party that the through-deck cruiser decision was made.

Griffin made himself expert in every detail of modern warship production and equipment before retiring with a knighthood and the rank of full admiral in 1978.

His knowledge of ship construction made him a natural choice as chairman of the nationalised British Shipbuilding Corporation. It was no fault of his that it was unable to halt the steep decline of the industry amid fierce competition and a worldwide slump in construction. The company was denationalised in 1980 and the industry all but died in Britain thereafter. The admiral reached 60 in that year, which did not deter him from trying, albeit in vain, to save a man from drowning in the Thames. He received a Royal Humane Society award.

Nor did the inexorable British retreat from the sea, an eccentric default on the part of an island-nation, deter him from becoming fourth-chairman of the British Maritime League from 1982-7. But the waning of the Royal and Merchant navies and of British ship construction could not be arrested, even after the Falklands War of 1982.

Griffin also served as chairman of the Royal Institute of Naval Architects from 1981-4 and of the governors of Wellington School. His wife, Rosemary, whom he married in 1943, and their two sons and one daughter, survive him.



Key figure in shaping the Navy's fleet... Griffin

Dan Van Der Vat
Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin, sailor, born November 24, 1920; died October 16, 1995

Abdelhamid Benhadouga

Writing after dawn in Algeria

THE most recurrent images in the novels of the Algerian writer Abdelhamid Benhadouga, who has died aged 70, are of sunrise, daybreak, the soft, fresh relief of the breeze at dawn. He is best known for *Rih al-Jazab* (*The Wind from the South*), which when published in 1971 was the first major Arabic novel from independent Algeria. He also worked in broadcasting and, in a milieu riven by conflict, was respected for his tolerance and diversity.

Algeria's colonial history fostered an association between the Arabic language and tradition, and French and modernity. Benhadouga rejected such oppositions; he strove for modernity through the medium of Arabic, and his yearning for social change was tempered by the belief that it could not be achieved at the expense of cultural heritage and community values.

He was born in Mansura in eastern Algeria, and the mountain village where he grew up was to feature in his writing. After primary education — in French — he continued his education in Constantine before studying radio production in Marseilles. He then studied Arabic literature at the Islamic university of Zaytuna in Tunis. During two years in France he wrote for French radio and the BBC, but in 1955 returned to Tunisia intent on using his pen to further the Algerian cause. With independence in 1962 he took up a broadcasting job in Algiers and spent the rest of his life in Algeria.

Two concerns recurred in his work; the desire of young people to move society beyond the limitations imposed by tradition, and women's struggle for emancipation. Set against the background of impending agrarian reform *The Wind from the South* follows a stu-

dent resisting an arranged marriage, her resultant acquaintance with a shepherd and the self-seeking hypocrisy of a big landowner claiming allegiance to the national cause. The novel is a cry for change and a caution against individual revolt; change experienced as the urban proletariat rather than cut against the bonds which give meaning to social relations.

Through the 1970s Benhadouga's writing charted post-independence Algeria from reconciliation to the tensions experienced with a shepherd. He added to his themes of generational conflict a critique of religious hypocrisy in *Morning Becomes Clear*. Such themes are lent a mythical dimension in *Jazibah* and *The Dewishes*, which marked a move away from realism to a more complex structuring of narrative. His 1992 novel *Tomorrow is a New Day* explored Algeria's colonial his-

tory, and was motivated by the belief that current problems were rooted in past experience. Benhadouga's experimentation with different literary styles, while less dramatic than that of some of his contemporaries, indicated his commitment to Arabic as a flexible literary language.

Benhadouga avoided public life and controversy, and while firmly attached to an Arab identity, he was not prescriptive. His writing combines a deep sympathy for characters and a critique of the society which holds back their ambitions for dignity and choice. Death and disaster are never far away, and yet his belief in youth as a force for change underlay an enduring, gentle optimism.

Debbie Cox
Abdelhamid Benhadouga, novelist, born January 9, 1925; died October 21, 1995

Jackdaw



Stand proud
BE PROUD you are White Trash! What does being White Trash mean? It means you love this world enough to point out what is wrong and what should be done to fix it.

White Trash is anyone that respects his hard earned money and doesn't waste it. White Trash is proud to shop at WAL-MART. Wal-Mart is the official store of White Trash. They have all your White Trash needs. Everything from beer to bibles.

And all at prices a working person can afford. Real White Trash likes to eat at Wal-Mart and actually takes dates and

spouses to eat out there. White Trash loves fast food. Food that can be eaten in the truck or mini-van. Taco Bell just might be the official fast food of White Trash.

White Trash parents love getting free things. The only thing better than getting something free is the dollar store! Everything for a buck! Dollar stores are great for last minute gifts! Most White Trash husbands know this. They can run in and get the wife something really nice for a buck. Never worry about forgetting a birthday or anniversary again. Being White Trash isn't easy! No it's not. It takes a lot of work. Most people think that it's just jaywalking and waiting for a government check to come in! Boy are they wrong. White Trash people work and work hard. The best employee is usually the White Trash worker. They are on time and not too hung over. Yes sometimes White Trash drinks a little too much, but they don't mean to. It usually happens because family or friends were over and the alcohol just snuck up and bit them.

Couch notes
SKIVERS
Garry Bushell: Any man with facial growths which would shame a gibbon, who gets paid for spouting adole-scent tosh on TV scheduling from a room of his crappy semi, surrounded by glamour models and free booze. Is to be applauded. Except of course if you're Garry Bushell.

Bus drivers: Rolling through the metropolis in command of peppermint and kipper-stinking coaches, failing to adhere to the Highway Code; three point turns in rush hour traffic in Camberwell, these gladiators of gridlock patently

don't give a fig. Existentially angst-ridden; tickets are never out with a smile, one stop's the same as another and anyway, it doesn't matter, they keep on pushing past the hours, only comfort the thought of tea. Try-ups and well-thumbed copies of *Escort* in the staff canteen. Roll-up fags: Puff on a wet dog-end, leave it lying around, light it later, puff some more. Unlike straight fags, which contain chemicals that make it burn even when it is removed from the mouth, unattended roll ups tend to extinguish themselves, making them safer to smoke in bed.

STRIVERS
Noise pollution officers: Ah the arch hypocrites. More than delighted to break up your party at 11pm on the dot: "We've had complaints from neighbours" (next door is a retirement home for deaf swingers) and passing traffic (you live in a cul-de-sac), they all catch cabs home to 200 watt sound systems in their bedrooms, whereupon they "drop it heavy Selector" till Sam, in the interests of "research"

The celestial church of annoying bastards, Finchley Road: A bunch of affluent evangelists who accost you when most vulnerable (ie, popping down the newspapers for fags) and though you politely decline their offer of a cheap pamphlet of indoctrination, accuse you of being: "Lonely... you so lonely!" before crowding round and offering you out for Jesus.

Filter-tips: Sleek, white and mass produced, filter-tips are a modernist aberration in the long history of smoking. Because you can just pick them up and light them, the filter-tips erase the contemplative side to smoking.

Notes from the couch in the November issue of the Idler.

Robbie rules

IT HAS long been the opinion of Post-Everything that Dean Gaffney who plays Robbie in *Eastenders*, is something of an icon. Despite the obvious advantages of bad skin, bad hair and bad looks in an age of Martini beauty and facial surgery he has risen phoenix-like from the ashes

of ugliness. Almost completely by accident he has come to espouse the values and attitudes of our generation. If we are looking for a youth president, we could do far worse than to choose Robbie as our leader.

His rise to prominence in *Eastenders*, and the first real sense he was headed for greatness, came with his first love. Nobody ever said love was going to be easy and



Skivers... Idler

Robbie — let's face it — has been through hell for Wellard, his trusty hound, able companion and probably best friend after the debacle with Tony. What Robbie has shown, is that in a world where your "best mate" is usually a stranger in the middle of the dance floor at five in the morning offering you a bottle of poppers, true friendship and loyalty really mean something. In Robbie and Wellard's relationship we have a vision of perfection that others (especially those who are related to, or want to become related to, anyone with the second name of Windsor) would do well to mirror. Their partnership is based on trust, friendship and mutual respect, and they have benefited immensely. I believe, from cohabiting, rather than jumping headlong into a marriage which neither of them are entirely sure.

Though others may try and convince you otherwise, it is fairly clear to Post-Everything that Robbie's job at the pizza place is no mere plot device, but is in fact a com-

Letter

Edward Wilson writes: St Alkyonius College, Eltham, has been the base for National Youth Theatre courses and rehearsals for the past 15 years. Apart from the great kindness its schoolkeeper George Reid (*obituary*, October 7) and his wife Kitty showed to NYTT members, even providing a cheap canteen, the love they both lavished on the foster children put in their charge was inspirational.

● The classic textbook on the pathology and treatment of sexual deviation by the psychoanalyst and artist Isidore Rosen, (*obituary* October 30), was republished shortly before his death by the Oxford University Press and is called *Sexual Deviation*, and not as printed. He was born in 1924 and not 1914.

Birthdays

Russ Ballard, rock musician and singer; 49; Barbara Bel Geddes, actress; 74; Eddie Charlton, snooker player; 67; Michael Collins, former astronaut; 68; Dick Francis, novelist; 78; Lee Grant, actress; 67; Lord Hardinge of Penshurst, publisher and editor; 75; Alastair Hetherington, former editor, the *Guardian*; 77; Illinois Jacquet, jazz saxophonist; 74; HRF Jefferies, crime novelist; 70; Charles Moore, editor, the *Daily Telegraph*; 40; Brendan Mullin, rugby player; 39; Sir Jimmy Saville, charity fundraiser; 70; Prof Avi Shlaim, historian of the Middle East; 51; Norodom Sihanouk, King of Cambodia; 74; Lady Wilcox, chairman, National Consumer Council; 66.

Death Notices

RICHARDS, on 26th October 1995 drowned on the beach at France, France, (his wife, aged 54, beloved daughter of Doris and James, much loved sister of Ian and Sheila, husband of Anne (deceased) and Our Lady, Queen of Apostles, the Green, Sussex, (his wife, Honoree of France on 28th November 1995 at 12 noon. Family flowers only, but donations desired to Arnhem International, 22 Avenue A, France, 42 Lambeth Conduit Street, London WC1E.

SMOLLETON, Jack (J.M.A.), on 29th October aged 85. Loved husband of Eileen (deceased), father of John, Christopher and Martin, grandfather and great-grandfather of many. Buried at St Andrew's L.I.C., 22nd Avenue, London. Home of the family since 1955. Family flowers only, but donations desired to St Andrew's L.I.C., 22nd Avenue, London. A Funeral Service, 13 Headstone Drive, Walsdale, Middlesex.

In Memoriam

WILSON, Ruby Mary, died 31st October 1995, aged 81. Memorised with love.

► To place your announcement, telephone 0171 713 4597. Fax 0171 713 4299.

David Lloyd

City Clar

Ploy 'thre snuff out

Richard Thomas

David Lloyd

Interest rates need to be raised sooner rather than later

One will be happier than I if we let the inflation target without some earlier rise in rates. I will then happily eat humble pie. But the case for an immediate rise has become less pressing

He had a disagreement over being with Eddie for the summer. I think now the time has come

David Lloyd

Emily Sheffield

Jackdaw wants jenns. E-mail jackdaw@guardian.co.uk; fax 0171-713 4366; Jackdawn, The Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

City cheers, industry fears Clarke rates rise ambush

Ploy 'threatens to snuff out recovery'

Richard Thomas
Economics Correspondent

CITY dealers hailed yesterday's interest rate rise as a "gutsy" pre-emptive strike against inflation and sent the pound spiralling to new highs on the foreign exchanges.

With the Square Mile unanimously expecting the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, to brush off Bank of England requests for monetary tightening, analysts said the element of surprise had enormously increased the impact of his move.

John Sheppard, chief economist at brokers Yamaichi, said: "This is a gutsy move. Mr Clarke has adopted Bundesbank-style ambush tactics: act when everyone least expects it and you get maximum reaction."

By the close of trading, sterling had risen by three pence against the German currency at DM2.4636, and by over two cents against the dollar at \$1.6325.

Market-watchers said the 0.25 per cent rates rise to 6 per cent had fuelled an already strengthening pound, but warned that sterling's new-found heights would hit exporters by pushing up price tags on goods sold abroad.

In the short term the stronger pound is bad news for industry, said David Coleman, UK economist at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. "But it was going up anyway, this just pushed it along."

Industry leaders lined up to criticise Mr Clarke's decision to impose dearer borrowing, which they said threatened the fragile manufacturing recovery.

In Fletcher, economist at the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "We are very worried this may snuff out the very recent recovery in manufacturing and companies' investment plans. Exporters in particular will be

hit as their competitiveness suffers."

Small businesses stressed the impact of dearer money on plans to borrow for expansion as the leading high street banks immediately jacked up their lending rates.

Describing the rise as "extremely bad news", Federation of Small Businesses spokesman Stephen Alambritis said Britain's minnow companies would pay an extra £100 million a year to service their overdraft facilities.

"It is a retrograde step for small businesses which have, in any case, been very late in taking advantage of consumer recovery," he said.

The Confederation of British Industry said the increase had taken boardrooms by surprise — especially given subdued price pressures — and warned the Chancellor not to use the decision as an excuse for big tax hand-outs in next month's Budget.

"It is vital Mr Clarke follows this move with a very prudent Budget to reduce the need for further upward moves," a CBI spokesman said.

City analysts were divided over whether yesterday's policy tightening marked the beginning of a new period of base rate rises — or was simply an attempt to cut the risk of a politically damaging increase nearer to polling day.

Gills rose sharply after the late-morning announcement, but then eased back during the afternoon as markets trimmed their expectations of future tightening.

Mr Coleman said the decision meant that further increases were off the agenda.

"Perhaps Eddie George produced some unanswerable argument which persuaded the Chancellor, but I am quite surprised."

The lone voice in favour of higher rates has belonged to Tim Congdon, of Lombard Street Research, but even he said: "I am a bit surprised because there is an election coming up."

Mr Clarke has won a reputation for bucking expert advice through his disagreements with Eddie George. Since the last rise in rates in February 1995, Mr Clarke has withstood repeated demands from the Bank of England governor



Kenneth Clarke on his way to Millbank TV studios to explain his 'gutsy' move

PHOTOGRAPH: FIONA HANSON

Eddie vs Ken

Several rates need to be raised sooner rather than later, says George, Sept 1995. The case will be stronger than I've written in the past, target without some further rise in rates. But the case for an immediate rise is not as strong as it once was. But the case for an immediate rise is not as strong as it once was. But the case for an immediate rise is not as strong as it once was.

Chancellor at odds with advisers

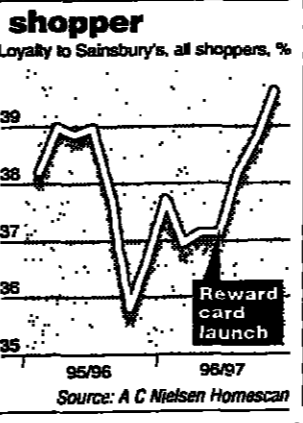
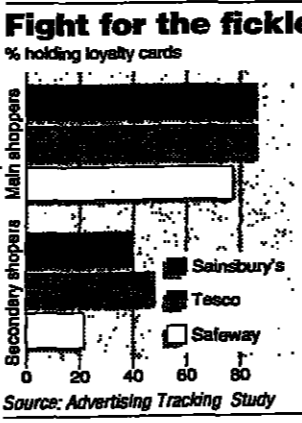
Sarah Ryle

KENNETH Clarke ignored the advice of most of his independent economic advisers that base rates should be kept on hold, it emerged last night as they registered shock at the increase.

tonary pressures are relatively weak and manufacturing is still fragile." Bridget Rowe, director of Business Strategies, said: "Perhaps Eddie George produced some unanswerable argument which persuaded the Chancellor, but I am quite surprised."

to tighten monetary policy to meet the 2.5 per cent inflation target. The row blew up in May last year when Mr Clarke overruled Mr George to leave rates at 6.75 per cent. Given his warnings, Mr George surprisingly supported the cut to 6.5 per cent in December 1995. Two more 25 basis point cuts followed, in January and March, before the conflict re-emerged in May.

George surprisingly supported the cut to 6.5 per cent in December 1995. Two more 25 basis point cuts followed, in January and March, before the conflict re-emerged in May.



David Lloyd leaves Whitbread

DAVID LLOYD, Britain's Davis Cup tennis coach, parted company with Whitbread yesterday just 14 months after Mr Lloyd said his leisure business to the brewing and hotels group in £200 million and agreed to help run it.

ment to Britain's Davis Cup team. It is understood that Mr Lloyd, who was on a three-year rolling contract, earning a reported £240,000 last year, will not receive any compensation.

miss David's contribution and am sorry that we must part company. Any differences between us were more of style than of substance, and I wish him well in his new activities."

chief executive of the business. However, things soured when Whitbread passed day-to-day management of the concern to a three-man team led by its managing director, Steve Philpott.

Pru insists it's working hard to make pensions redress

PRUENTIAL, the UK's largest life insurance company, yesterday defended its poor record on redress for victims of personal pensions mis-selling after it was revealed as the worst offender in a secret report by the Personal Investment Authority.

panies as offenders, including Co-operative Insurance, Pearl Assurance, Legal & General and TSB.

the way they were... David Lloyd and Peter Jarvis



Matter of political nous as well as economic verities



Mark Milner

IF THE Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, has to vacate number 11 Downing Street after the next election he might consider sending his curriculum vita to the Bundesbank.

their jobs make borrowing dearer. But why move rates at all if it involves political risk? Mr Clarke says he has been persuaded by the latest GDP and retail sales data, the housing market recovery and survey evidence that the economy is experiencing a broad pick up in activity and therefore needed to act. That is fair enough. Nor should the strong sterling argument be overstated. A fair bit of the pound's progress might well prove to be long-term, rather than fundamental strength.

Indeed, Mr Clarke's comments as to why he decided on a base rate hike — "firm grip on inflation — sustain this well into the future" — might have been penned by the Bundesbank council at its most austere.

A cynic might add, however, that Mr Clarke may be calculating that the improvement in the feel-good factor concomitant with the recovery is strong enough to sustain the impact of a rate rise. Thus, the Chancellor is offered the chance to be economically responsible without hitting his party's electoral prospects.

The only snag is that the governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, argued against the last cut in rates (in June) and has subsequently argued that they should go up — without, until yesterday, any success. Suddenly, Mr Clarke is a convert.

It could even improve them. Think for a moment of tax cuts. The economy has taken the back seat in the political debate of late. The Queen's speech focused on areas like education, crime, health care and social security — areas where the Conservatives believe they can establish clear differences with Labour.

The Chancellor would not doubt argue correctly that the decision on the timing of a rate rise was a matter of fine judgment. The Bank has been insistent on the lurking dangers of inflation but the economic data, though perhaps more worrying of late, has hardly been overwhelming — not least because the strength of the pound could be invoked as a counterbalancing factor to incipient price pressures.

It is not so long ago, however, that Tory backbenchers were arguing that only tax cuts (and plenty of them) could win them next spring's election. Come Budget Day they will still be looking to Mr Clarke to deliver.

Indeed, the whole interest rate debate has been conducted more in terms of a pre-emptive strike, rather than as a response to an existing problem. City analysis and commentators have been divided over the question of whether or not rates needed to rise on economic grounds, though they were much closer to unanimity on the political issues.

The Chancellor himself has been at pains to talk down expectations but there may be a sense that in doing so he will increase the impact of any fiscal loosening he feels able to deliver. Having primed the voters not to expect too much (so they will be more pleasantly surprised by anything he has to offer) Mr Clarke is also doing the financial markets that he is not overdoing the generosity.

Here is the rub. The suspicion lingers that the fine judgment involved in yesterday's decision owed something to politics as well as, to be fair to Mr Clarke, to economic ones. It is not too hard to construct a case for suggesting that yesterday's meeting with the governor was the final realistic opportunity to push up rates before the elections and that there are sound political, as well as economic, reasons for a touch on the tiller of monetary policy.

What better way then to surprise them with a pre-Budget rate hike they had believed had been excluded from his agenda by political considerations?

Take the first part of that contention; that this was Mr Clarke's last chance. The next in the regular series of meetings between Chancellor and governor is scheduled for December 11.

Mr Clarke is astute; even if he were not his advisers would be quick to warn him of the Scrooge headlines which would inevitably follow a rate hike so close to Christmas. From there it is but a small step to the new year, and then downhill all the way to the election. Pre-political periods are not the time Chancellors who want to keep

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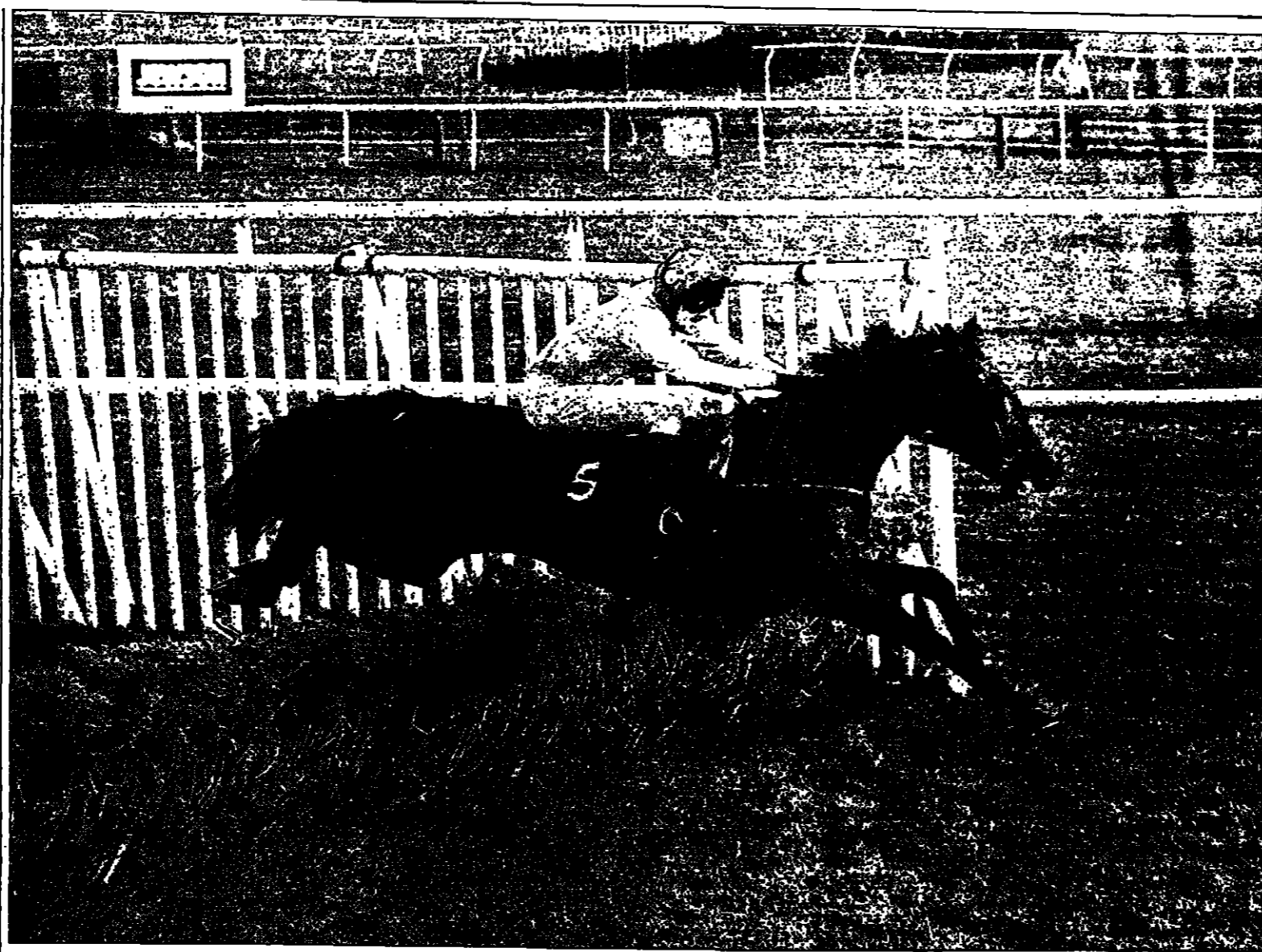
1 Balloon St., Manchester M60 4EP. Tel: 0161 832 3456

David Lloyd

Supplied by NatWest Bank (excluding Indian rupee and Israeli shekel)

Cricket
Skipper Wells is sacked

ALAN WELLS has been sacked as Sussex captain and replaced by the wicketkeeper-batsman Peter Moores. The 35-year-old Wells was given the news when he returned from holiday in Barbados this week.
The timing of the decision is significant. Under Test and County Cricket Board rules counties are not allowed to approach players from other counties without permission, until October 31. Essex were due to talk to the all-rounder Jimmy Law, today and Ian Salisbury and Martin Spaight are wanted by Surrey and Durham respectively.
The decision to appoint the popular Moores has been made in an attempt to keep the side together but they could now lose Wells, still their premier batsman.
He said last night: "The way Sussex have handled the whole affair has left me with a very bitter taste in my mouth. They have treated me with a lack of respect. I don't know what my future holds but I'm sure I've got another five or six years left at the top level and, if the phone rings, I'll be there."



Triple jump... Tony McCoy clears the last flight on Courbaril at Cheltenham yesterday to complete a quick three-timer

Mandilak win marks the Aga Khan's return

AFTER an absence of six years, the Aga Khan's colours returned to a British winner's circle when Mandilak lauded the Ranworth Maiden Stakes at Yarmouth yesterday.
The winner was one of a batch of 12 two-year-olds the Aga Khan sent to Luca Cumani this year, having ended his self-imposed exile following his dissatisfaction over Jockey Club drug-testing procedures in the wake of the 1989 Oaks winner Allysha.
Cumani, who trained the Aga Khan in 1988, said: "It's marvellous to see these colours win again. It's been a long wait. Most of the Aga's two-year-olds with me are bred to stay and are three-years-old."
At Cheltenham Tony McCoy hit the 75-winner mark for the season with a quick-fire hat-trick aboard the Aga Khan in 1988, said bumper at Warwick and I've been offered six-figure sums for him since, but he's not for sale," said Fletcher.
The Jockey Club yesterday confirmed its disciplinary committee will hold an inquiry into the "jockeys' strike" which halted racing at Haydock earlier this month.

Nottingham card with guide to the form

Table of race results for Nottingham, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Sedgefield (N.H.)

Table of race results for Sedgefield, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Stratford (N.H.)

Table of race results for Stratford, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Racing
Japan Cup option for Singspiel

MICHAEL Stoute has turned down an invitation to run the Japan Cup in the Japanese City of November 24, but Singspiel has entered the reckoning.
"Plisudski has finished for the season," said Stoute yesterday. "But Singspiel has now been invited and we've got until Monday to make up our minds.
"It doesn't give us much time and it is a question of how he seems after Woodbine. At the moment it's too early to tell but Japan would be a very long journey for him considering he's been to Canada twice within a few weeks.
"He's also been invited for the Hong Kong Vase which is two weeks later and obviously in his favour."
The carrot dangled by the Japan Racing Association is prize money of £1.08 million plus generous travelling allowances for both horses and connections.
Pentire, Hellsio, Oscar Schindler and Halling, who is thought unlikely to run by Simon Crisford of Godolphin, make up the European invitation list.
Geoff Wragg is still in charge of Pentire but the colt will remain in Japan after the race to take up stallion duties next year.
Elle Lellouche has accepted on behalf of Hellsio now that the touted match race with Cigar has apparently fallen through.
Bill Mart, Cigar's trainer, seems fairly certain that the American super-horse has been retired but one can never be sure where owner Allen Paulson is concerned.

Clydesdale Bank advertisement with logo and text: 'Clydesdale Bank PLC announces with effect from close of business on 30th October 1996 its Base Rate has been increased from 5.75% to 6.00% per annum.'

Table of race results for various locations including Yarmouth, Cheltenham, and Fontwell.

Table of race results for various locations including Stratford and Sedgefield.

Advertisement for 'Lear for Legor' featuring a 'RACELINE' board with race numbers and names.

Soccer

D-day for Gascoigne as Hoddle decides

Martin Thorpe

DECISION on whether Paul Gascoigne should be included in the next England squad will be made today following final talks between the coach Glenn Hoddle and Keith Wiseman...

tional at this stage, which is down to Glenn, and whether the totality of the surrounding circumstances makes it appropriate for him to play for England, which is a matter for both of us...

Full house just the ticket for Evans

Ian Ross finds why cheaper European package deals are paying off at Anfield

ANFIELD will be bursting at the seams this evening for the return leg of Liverpool's Cup Winners' Cup tie against the Swiss from FC Sion...

of the Alps a fortnight ago and watched, enraptured, as Evans's men overran their Swiss rivals with regard as inevitable Liverpool's progress tonight...

Robinson is offered Hull for £1

DON ROBINSON'S £1.5 million bid to regain control of Hull City has been turned down by the chairman Martin Fish...

back Martin Grainger, who suffered knee ligament damage in a pre-season encounter against Everton at St Andrews...



Odds against... the Rangers defence comes under pressure from the combined assault of Kluyvert and Babangida at Ibrox last night

Champions League, Group A: Rangers 0, Ajax 1

Scholten ends Rangers interest

Patrick Glenn

ARNOLD Scholten, at 33 the oldest player in a team of prodigies, struck a blow for the wrinkles with a beautifully-controlled 25-yard drive that gave Ajax a victory...

and they were, characteristically, no hurry to justify the pre-match expectation that they would rush the Scots into submission...

right and Robertson on the left making no pretensions to being "wing-backs". Their assignment was simply to stay close to Babangida and Overmars, the free spirits on the Ajax flanks...

more embarrassing mess of his opportunity when he played the ball in to Scholten from the right and the latter back-heeled it back into his path...

pathy for their opponents or their own lethargy. But their failure to impose themselves as authoritatively as they had before the break should have brought Rangers an equaliser with almost an hour played...

First Division: Norwich City 1, Sheffield United 1

Adams rescues Norwich

Trevor Haylett

HOWARD KENDALL has always had a soft spot for Carrow Road. He clinched the First Division championship there with Everton...

second place but United's own promotion claims are growing in strength. Howard Kendall's team, having scored four in their last away game and celebrated victory in three of their last four travelling appearances...

showed the Welshman hungry to add to his tally. Norwich were contributing fully to an open, fast-paced contest but it was United who made the next worthwhile attack count...

Wolverhampton W0, Huddersfield Town 0

Toothless Wolves see no end to that goal famine at Molineux

Peter White

THE inability to find the net at Molineux again cost Wolves dearly last night. For all their efforts, particularly in the second half, they failed to pierce a resolute Huddersfield defence...

Hamburg, went close for Wolves from the edge of the area on 15 minutes, and shortly afterwards the German hit a low shot through a crowd of players, only to find the Huddersfield goalkeeper Steve Francis perfectly positioned to gather...

Stan the man for Villa fans

SUPPORTERS of Aston Villa want the Liverpool striker Stan Collymore to replace Savo Milosevic, who flew to Italy yesterday to complete a £4.5 million move to Perugia...

showed that 40 per cent wanted him ahead of Celtic's Pierre van Hooydonck (37 per cent), Teddy Sheringham, Emile Heskey and Dean Holdsworth...

Results

Table of sports results including Soccer, Rugby Union, Tennis, and Golf.

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Forest in bid to end year from hell

Martin Thorpe on four routes to salvation for the troubled club

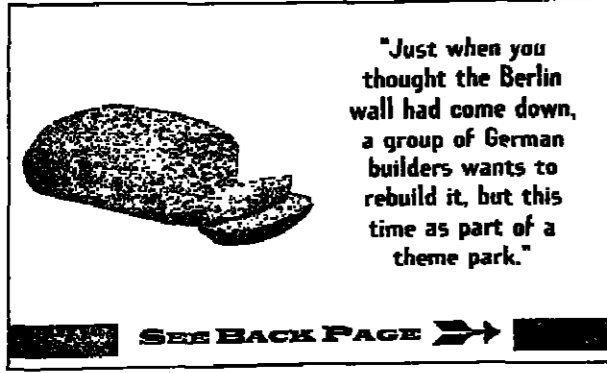
THIS week the nation's trees were battered by a mini-hurricane. But in Nottingham they were already grappling with the problem of falling giants...

Now Frank Clark's team lie third bottom of the Premiership without a win since the opening day of the season, while at the City Ground the full house signs have been replaced by For Sale notices as the club struggles with debts approaching £10 million...

Each bid promises to lift Forest back to the top. First will come transfer cash to help avoid a repeat of the relegation they suffered three years ago...

The chairman Fred Reacher and his board finally came to the conclusion a couple of months ago that with their bid to compete in the rich new world of the Premiership the club needed to find a huge cash injection...

All will include in their prospectuses various promises to tempt shareholders into selling to them, including money for players, money to clear the debt, a £20 million flotation, a new main stand and a substantial cash offer to buy the 209 shares which, uniquely, are held, one each, by shareholders, who include the seven-man board...



07/10/96

Advertisement for 'Amuted Oxford's' and 'Mercury Smart' featuring a woman in a dark dress and various text elements.



A team in mourning... the Dark Blues find it difficult to compose themselves before yesterday's Stanley's XV match as they remember their team-mate Ian Tucker

A muted win to follow Oxford's terrible loss

Robert Armstrong on the sombre shadow over Iffley Road

It would be contentious to make direct connections between the death of Ian Tucker, the 23-year-old Oxford University centre, and the notable absence of passion in yesterday's annual match against Major B V Stanley's XV at Iffley Road.

filled Tucker's midfield place, was forced to come off on the hour after a heavy collision but thankfully his injury was nothing more serious than a damaged shoulder. Though the Oxford players had been offered psychological counselling in the 48 hours before the game, it was evident they were making a

conscious effort to keep their minds firmly focused on rugby rather than the grievous loss of a friend. Death on the field of play is mercifully rare even in the unprotected world of rugby, which shuns the headgear and shoulder-padding that are standard in American Football. Yesterday the thunderous big hits, now commonplace in Courage League One, were virtually non-existent, perhaps because the majority of players in action on this lighter than the top storm-troopers of the new professional game.

Stanley's XV which depends heavily on the goodwill of senior clubs in allowing their release. As Stanley's organiser Simon Halliday admitted: "Most of my usual overtures were blocked by aggressive rugby directors, penny-pinching agents and hardening attitudes." The fixture is in real jeopardy.

Yesterday Stanley's XV may not have been of the highest quality, as their defeat suggests, but they were skippered by Australia's former World Cup captain Nick Farr-Jones, who flew in from Paris to play. Farr-Jones will attend this morning's service at Keele College in memory of Tucker, a fellow Sydney-sider who also played for that city's university team.

Rugby Union

Tour match: Scotland A 20, Australians 47

Little worry for Wallabies

AUSTRALIA may be rebuilding after a marginally successful Tri-Nations series but there were ominous signs at Galashiels yesterday that they will again be formidable opponents as they began their tour of the British Isles. Disrupted by early injuries to Jason Little and Michael Brial, they took an hour to settle and shake off a persistent Scotland A side, among whom the loose-head prop Tom Smith and open-side flanker Murray Wallace could tomorrow be given their first caps against the tourists on Saturday week at Murrayfield. But these Australians, once into their stride, demonstrated that they have not lost an eye for the try-line, even though they do not quite possess the aura of some of their recent predecessors. Unfortunately only time will tell how large a part Little will play on tour. He has damaged knee ligaments and, although an initial prognosis suggested he could be playing again within 10 days, the coach Greg Smith put it nearer three weeks. "If we need to get another player we will ask for one," he said. It is a measure of the Wallabies' strength in depth, however, that one option would be to move the wing Tim Horan to centre, where he spent most of his 46-cap Test career. The Australians will be reluctant to take that step in view of Horan's success in his new role which was underlined yesterday with two of their

England's coach Jack Rowell will name his new captain at Twickenham next Tuesday, a day before the side to play Italy on November 23 is announced at a squad session at Bisham Abbey.

Dallaglio the leading man

ENGLAND'S coach Jack Rowell will name his new captain at Twickenham next Tuesday, a day before the side to play Italy on November 23 is announced at a squad session at Bisham Abbey. The front-runner for the man to succeed England's most successful captain Will Carling is Lawrence Dallaglio of Wasps, who won his first cap only a year ago as a replacement in the side that were beaten by South Africa. But the 25-year-old Dallaglio, who took over as Wasps captain 12 months ago when Dean Ryan decamped to Newcastle with Rob Andrew, takes his club side to Milan for a European Cup tie this weekend. Lawrence's brother Nero Dallaglio would be an appropriate choice to lead England against the land of his father. Rowell and his fellow selectors made their choice of captain a month ago but deliberately kept his name a secret from the player and even the Rugby Football Union committee because of the prolonged dispute between Twickenham and the clubs. Rowell hoped to avoid putting Carling's successor in an invidious position of being asked to comment on the feud. But now he has no option but to give the newcomer at least a couple of weeks to settle into his job. By coincidence it was Guy Fawkes Day, 1988, when Carling began his record-breaking run of leadership which ended last March with him victorious in 44 of his 59 international in charge. Other candidates for the captain's job are Phil de Glanville, the Bath centre and skipper, Jason Leonard, who is leading Harlequins in a highly successful season, and Northampton's flanker Tim Rodber. But of that trio only Leonard is assured of being named in the team next week and prop forward is a far from ideal position from which to lead a side. But in Bath, de Glanville, seem close to securing the signature of their first major overseas signing, Federico Mendez, the Argentina hooker currently playing with Natal, watched the champion's demolition of Bristol on Tuesday night. League Two Richmond yesterday confirmed they are negotiating with Mendez's Natal team-mates, the South African international Cabous van der Westhuizen and Steve Atherton. Richmond's coaching director John Kingston said last night: "We enjoyed the benefit of talks with Mendez. We already have a very good side but they are both quality players and we are interested. Maybe sooner rather than later." Van der Westhuizen, a wing, and the lock Atherton flew to England after helping Natal to the Currie Cup final victory over ransvaal last weekend. Bath have also expressed an interest in Atherton.

Cotton calls for expulsion of leading clubs from RFU

Cotton, the former chairman of the North's playing committee, said: "I can't see why the men who are directing Epruc keep their clubs in the RFU. They want to stop their players from playing against an international side like the New Zealand Barbarians and they tell their clubs not to make their grounds available. I also read comments from Sir John Hall [Newcastle's owner] saying that, when he has obtained the support of the European Courts, he will contact all his friends and arrange Epruc's departure from the RFU. So what are we waiting for here? According to their spokesmen, these clubs have no wish to be part of the RFU and appear to me to be in breach of RFU bylaws. I can't see why they should not be expelled so that their players appearing for divisional sides, Queensland, New Zealand Barbarians and Argentina are all touring England, at great expense to the RFU which has said it is considering playing League Three and Four players against them in divisional games. Cotton says that denying players divisional opportunities could jeopardise their chances of England call-ups.

Rugby League

Lindsay claims Super strength

Paul Fitzpatrick
THE 12 Super League clubs are increasingly taking control of their own affairs while continuing to stress that they are not breaking away from the game's main body. Rugby League (Europe), established six weeks ago to run and promote Super League, should soon have its own general manager, marketing and media staff and its own premises — helped by finance from central funds. This news will be greeted with disbelief by the five members of staff, including Paul Harrison, the media manager, and his assistant Melaine Lewis, who were made redundant by the Rugby League last week. "But, in spite of evidence to the contrary, the game's chief executive, Maurice Lindsay, insists that central funds have never been in better shape. "Next week we are expecting £1 million of our £3.5 million contract with the BBC and we have £25 million to spend on Silk Cut's sponsorship of the Challenge Cup. This is, on top of other sponsorship from CIS, Asics and Isostar and is all in addition to the £87 million from

Tollett asked to return in farcical twist to Lions' tale

Andy Wilson in Christchurch
TULSEN TOLLETT will give the Lions' tour a further farcical twist when the London Broncos' half-back, one of the 11 players ordered home last week to cut costs, retraces his steps as emergency cover for tomorrow's third and final Test against New Zealand. Fortunately for the over-stretched balance sheet Tollett had travelled only as far as Sydney, where he has been visiting his parents and girlfriend, but he will still have only 24 hours to prepare for a possible Great Britain debut. Even now Tollett is unlikely to start the match. Bobbie Goulding could yet play with the help of a painkilling injection for his ankle injury, which again prevented him training yesterday. If he is ruled out, however, Lestrin will have to switch to scrum-half and Karlie Hammond move to stand-off. Phil Larder, the Lions' coach, said: "We were hoping that we would not need to send for Tulzen but in our current injury situation we have no choice. At the moment there is no way I could name a team for Friday." Larder's worries were compounded yesterday when the tour captain Andy Farrell and the winger Anthony Sullivan pulled up in training with reactions to injuries from last Friday's Test defeat which gave the Kiwis a winning 2-0 lead in the series. Farrell, who has a side strain and a leg-muscle injury, still hopes to lead the Lions for the fifth time but Sullivan is a likely non-starter with a hamstring problem. Stuart Spruce also missed training but expects to play in a headguard to protect his ripped ear and despite having had an ingrowing toenail removed. "Our backs are right up against the wall," admitted the manager Phil Lowe. "The lads are tired, we have a stack of injuries, a few things have gone wrong off the field and we have lost two Tests we could easily have won. It's a real trenches job." New Zealand will be without the injured Cronulla winger Richard Barnett but are scarcely weakened as he is replaced by Marc Ellis, the former All Black, now with Auckland Warriors.

Tennis

Becker goes ape

Richard Jago in Paris
BORIS BECKER, who along with the world No. 1 Pete Sampras yesterday joined the list of top names hustled out of Paris Open, launched into an impassioned tirade of screaming criticism after losing 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 to Spain's Carlos Moya. Less than 72 hours after defeating Sampras to win the Six Stars Open, Becker was beaten by the world No. 24 and spectacularly losing his temper, too. Two hours later Sampras joined him on the casualty list, which includes Goran Ivanisevic and Thomas Muster, when he was blasted out by the 1992 Olympic champion Marc Rosset. Becker said of his match: "I felt we were two gorillas with the other animals all around us. There was screaming and moving around. You can't hit a small ball with a small margin of error with this going on. I am shocked and disappointed and don't know if I'll be back."



Rattled... an angry Becker heads for early defeat in Paris

About 18 months ago the ATP altered its guidelines to allow spectators to move around and encourage their involvement. Here the noise was always distracting and frequently indiscriminate and ill-timed. Yet it was surprising that Becker was unable to handle it. It confirmed the impression created by his sluggish serving and backhand driving — such a force in Stuttgart — that he was tired. Six times he changed rackets, three times he bashed them on chairs and regularly he complained to the umpire. Two technical faults cost him the first set and, even after he lifted himself to win the second, Becker was too fearful to turn the third around. Moya was more patient through the distractions but did launch a ball into the upper tiers of spectators after seeing Becker's forehead drive on the first match point called out only for it to be over-ruled by the umpire. Amid a madhouse of din the young Spaniard did well to recover sufficient composure to close out Becker. Not long afterwards there was further cacophony as Becker was joined by the world No. 3 Muster, who retired with an injured hip against the Swede Stefan Edberg, and by Sampras. Rosset served 30 aces in his 6-4, 6-4 victory and Sampras said: "He's 6ft 7in and it feels like he's slambunking on you all the time. When he gets his serve going, you just pray for rain."

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Sport in brief

Sailing The Royal Yachting Association, stung into action by the disgrace of finishing last in the 1995 Admiral's Cup, has included three Atlanta silver medalists — John Merricks, Ian Walker and Ben Ainslie — in Britain's team for next year, writes Bob Fisher. The non-sailing captain Richard Matthews and the former captain Graham Walker have put together a team of boats designed by the New Zealander Bruce Farr. Walker's Corel 45, Indulgence, fills the "big boat" slot and the ILC-40 will be Pigs in Space, which has just been bought by Tony Buckingham. Tim Barrett's Mumm 38, Bradamante, completes the team. **Cricket** Salim Malik, with an unbeaten 72, steered Pakistan to a three-wicket win over Zimbabwe in the first of three

one-day internationals in Quetta after Wasim Akram became the first bowler to take 300 wickets in one-day internationals when he trapped David Houghton leg-before with the fourth ball of the match. Zimbabwe owed their 237 for nine largely to Grant Flower (91) and his elder brother Andy (82). Bob Cottam is set to return to Warwickshire as part-time bowling coach six years after resigning as manager. **Motor Racing** Tyrrell have signed the Japanese driver Toranosuke Takagi as their test driver for the 1997 Formula One season. **Boxing** Francis Ampong, the former British and Commonwealth flyweight champion, makes the second comeback of his career at Frank Hall, Bethnal Green, on November 27. Ampong, who moves up a division to super-flyweight to meet Gary Hickman, has not fought since his Commonwealth title defeat by Daniel Ward of South Africa 18 months ago. Before then Ampong was ordered by the British Board of Control to rest for a year after a medical check. After returning for a WBO title clash with Baby Jake Matiala in June, 1994, which he lost in nine rounds, Ampong had three more championship fights before the board told him to rest again. **Soccer** Guy Scherrer, chairman of the French first division club Nantes, has resigned "for personal reasons". Some members of the board recently accused him of never consulting them on important issues. **Rugby Union** The Northern Transvaal centre, Danie van Schalkwyk, has a groin injury and has withdrawn from South Africa's squad to tour Argentina, France and Wales next month. Dick Muir of Natal takes his place.

The £5 million cycle chase, page 12

Wells comes home to the sack, page 13

D-day for Gascoigne, page 14

The Blues return to Iffley Road, page 15

SportsGuardian

DEFEAT AT OLD TRAFFORD

Champions League, Group C: Manchester United 0, Fenerbahce 1

United Europe in disarray

David Lacey

MANCHESTER United's 40-year-old, 56-match unbeaten home record in Europe finally fell to a Bosnian at Old Trafford last night. Elvir Bolic's late goal won a famous Champions League victory for Fenerbahce to throw United's hopes of making the quarter-finals into utter confusion.

Having started slowly and then missed several chances, United were undone in the 77th minute when Bolic produced a dipping shot from the edge of the penalty area which dived Peter Schmeichel and then dipped in under the bar after taking a deflection off David May.

Heavy defeats, 5-0 and 6-3, by Newcastle and Southampton could hardly be described as little local difficulties but at least last night found Manchester United returning to the principal theme of their season. Alex Ferguson has made no secret of his desire to add the Champions Cup to his manifold successes.

On the evidence of their confident, composed 2-0 defeat of Fenerbahce in Istanbul a fortnight earlier United had little to fear last night except, to coin a phrase, fear itself. But without Pallister in defence and still missing Giggs in attack they needed to tread with care.

With Cantona flanked by Poborsky and Cruyff, the Fenerbahce defence was always likely to become sufficiently stretched to leave inviting gaps for the runs from midfield of Beckham, Keane and Butt.

Yet a similar formation had laboured against Juventus in Turin and after a briefly promising start Cantona's unsuitability for the central role, though less evident in Istanbul, was again apparent. The Turkish champions



Fleeting moment... the United winger Poborsky evades the Fenerbahce midfielder Tunca at Old Trafford last night

PHOTOGRAPH MICHAEL STEELE

gained in confidence. Okocha, Fenerbahce's wily, skilful Nigerian, had dominated the early part of the game in Turkey and he was the instigator of their initial attacks last night.

But the first serious scoring attempt at either end followed Erol's cross from the left, Kemalettin's volley skimming the crossbar to remind United of their new mortality. They were forcing corners

at regular intervals, however, and from one of these should have taken the lead midway through the first half but Cantona, with only Rustu to beat, shot wide of the far post. Now Manchester United

were looking slightly dishevelled and less sure of themselves. At least the defence looked sound, but the passing was becoming a muddled mixture of the predictable and the plain inaccurate.

Increasingly Cantona was drifting deep, which is more his natural game, but this meant that when United did catch Fenerbahce on the break support for the man in possession was often lacking up front. There was a glimpse of something better two minutes from half-time. Now Beckham decided to take on Cantona before driving the ball past the far post. At last Old Trafford began to sense a goal.

There was a greater urgency about Manchester United in the second half. Cruyff had been moved into the middle, allowing Cantona to drift into some old familiar spaces, but their passing still

lacked its usual snap and crackle. The match badly needed a goal. In the 52nd minute it nearly saw one at either end. First Tunca, found in space on the left by Kemalettin's crossfield ball, drove the ball low into the goalmouth where Kostadinov slid in to waft it over the bar. Then Rustu's diving body thwarted Butt, who had been sent in by the ball Poborsky had threaded through Fenerbahce's cover.

Two minutes later Cruyff, racing through on the left, gathered a return pass from Cantona before driving the ball past the far post. At last Old Trafford began to sense a goal.

Manchester Uniteds Schmeichel; G Neville (P. Neville, 82), May, Johnson, Irwin, Beckford, Keane, Butt, Poborsky (Solskjaer, 67min), Cantona, Cruyff (Scholes, 67). Fenerbahce Rustu; Bar, Uche, Sefket, Erol, Hoogh, Okocha, Kemalettin, Tunca (Mustafa, 75), Bolic (Tarik, 82), Kostadinov. Referee M Van der Ende (Netherlands).

Claret and blue — sport's true colours



Frank Keating

JOHN ARLOTT'S beloved and battered briefcase was auctioned in London on Tuesday evening. The brown-leather, one-handed 1960s job, monogrammed with a faded J.A., was as much a part of John as his voice was to the nation in summer. It fetched £230.

It was almost an extension of his right arm: in the mornings heavy, in the gloaming light. It was cavernous enough to hold, at a pinch, four bottles of wine — but three comfortably ensured the Ryvita would be uncrushed, along with the generous hunk of cheese (treat of treats, Dorset Blue), an onion, a penknife, the vine-root corkscrew and the current Playfair Annual.

As the scuffed and evocative relic went under the hammer at the end of a sumptuous dinner in aid of the Arlott Memorial Trust, graced by Princess Anne and hosted by the late and still mourned renaissance man's favourite Rioja wines from Spain, it inspired a secret toast to that wholesome triumvirate of the Gs — good games, good grub and the goodness of the grape.

And, by golly, we needed it in a week which began with those two footballers Ian Wright and Matthew Le Tissier going public about their pre-match diet.

Said Wright, appalled at being told by Highbury's new French manager to cut out his routine Mars bars: "He's put me on grilled fish, grilled everything, even grilled broccoli, yuk."

On the very same Sunday Le Tissier was admitting that his club's new nutritious pre-game regime put him in a quandary because he could abide neither fruit nor vegetables, so he would occasionally sneak into McDonald's and, "to be honest, given the choice, I'd be straight round the corner to the chip shop for a couple of battered sausages".

As a man of Hamis and particularly one who loved and lived in the Channel Islands, Arlott would have relished Le Tissier's football if not his diet.

On the other hand, at Tuesday's glittering banquet for his trust — which, so dear to his good old heart, aims to regenerate village communities

with affordable housing and sports fields — the simple wine-cheese-and-onion gourmand Arlott might have found the menu too gluttuously rich — glazed seafood ravioli for starters, followed by *medallions* of venison — although he would have approved of the accompanying honest bottles from Spain, respectively a '95 Muga Blanco and an '89 Martinez Bujanda Reserva.

On these very pages Arlott, doubling as correspondent of both wine and cricket, "discovered" Spanish wines and his columns championed them until his death in December 1981. One might say he did for Rioja (as well as Ian Botham) what his friend and predecessor Neville Cardus had done for Mahler (and Archie MacLaren).

J.A. would not turn down a fizz during the opening overs; nor a hair-of-dog schooner of Spanish *fino*. Whatever, the brieftcase would pop open and the curly corkscrew be withdrawn around noon for the pre-prandials. Then the game out there effectively could be said to have begun.

WHAT would have had Arlott taking a reflective slug were the footballers' dietary revelations, not so much their preferred food but the fact that it had to be washed down before kick-off with "a couple of pints of Lucozade Sport". This concoction is all the rage, whether through addiction or made compulsory by sponsorship. The other day there was even a young journalist in the pressbox sucking at a tube of it.

Part of rugby's disastrous revolution has been to succumb to the white-coated nutrition biffins. It seems an age away now that one saw England's hooker Brian Moore tuck into his pre-match staple — a stout and few Alp-high platefuls of mashed potatoes on to which he would pour rivulets of onion-gravy. A fellow pack-leader, the grand Irish Lion Moss Keane, was a "stout and double omelette" man. (In New Zealand once the waiter inquired: "What sort of Guinness and omelette, sir?" "A Black one and an egg one, of course," came the reply.)

The Welsh lock from Aberavon Max Wiltshire would not even put on his beloved red shirt unless he had had a massive lunchtime curry. In that same team mighty Brian Thomas of Neath would eat nothing from Friday night to kick-off, but bunch after bunch of grapes.

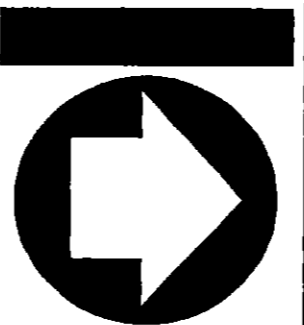
Arlott would have approved of Thomas. Though he would have suggested fermenting them first.

BECKSENTRICS

THE WEIRD AND WONDERFUL WORLD OF EUROPE'S FREE THINKERS



PLAYING BY THEIR OWN RULES

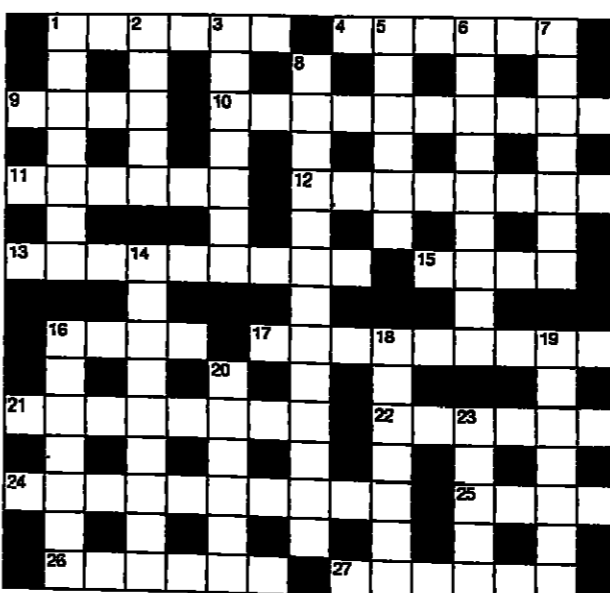


And where are all these calm, caring, cool-headed spankers anyway? Almost every time I visit the supermarket I witness some harassed and frustrated parent yelling at an errant child: "You stop that right now or I'll belt you." Francis When

G2 front

Guardian Crossword No 20,798

Set by Rufus



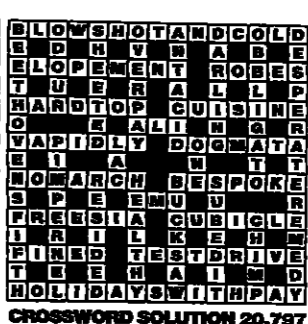
Across

- 1 Vegetable causes a girl to come out with a rash (6)
- 4 Personal property includes unusual tea set (6)
- 9 Not a pointed rebuff (4)
- 10 Red Admiral flutters around on the football field (4,6)
- 11 Disciplined for making wrong sound (6)
- 12 They don't work for money (4,4)
- 13 It simply outlines the position (6-3)
- 15 Slough farm building perhaps (4)
- 16 Bearing of an ex-president? (4)
- 17 Digs for a convalescent? (3-6)
- 21 Paper thrown at the match (6)

- 22 One may take it as a safe place (6)
- 24 Little may be seen through it (10)
- 25 Strikers attempt to return (4)
- 26 Agrees to change gun ammunition (6)
- 27 High spirits? (6)

Down

- 1 Conducted a bag search (7)
- 2 Clear a computer program? (5)
- 3 Cancel score (7)
- 5 Lots follow second test (6)
- 6 Hold rates collection in garrison town (9)
- 7 Showed how even CID can be manipulated (7)
- 8 One in charge of a WWII flying-bomb (8,5)
- 14 Service men who have a job to do (4,5)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,797

- 16 Some reservation about giving a player a yellow card? (7)
- 18 Wave on a doctor (7)
- 19 Highest form of fractions (7)
- 20 Assist in stoppage (6)
- 23 It isn't true it comes to a moral conclusion (5)

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